

THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

June July 2011

Magnetic Church 4

In recent months, parishioner Jim Hunt has been reporting on a seminar he attended, together with other representatives from St. J. the B. This is the final installment of the series.

In the first three articles, I explained:

1. The reasons why we must attract new members
2. The Magnetic Church philosophy
3. The issues faced by any Christian church in the current milieu
4. What it would be like to implement some of the Magnetic Church concepts in a “gentle” way going down what was labelled the “Traditional Road”. That direction means we believe in ourselves as we are and that we don’t think we need to change so much as we need to explain to others who we are; where we are; and what we stand for.

Going Down the Reinvention Road

In this final article, I want to describe what we have labelled the “Reinvention Road”. Going down this road would mean an acceptance of the fact that a more radical approach to change at our church is required in order to survive and prosper. It implies a full strategic analysis of what we are doing with a review of culture, structure, mission, vision, processes, and programs before the implementation of any changes.

That strategic analysis would include a study of demographics, needs of the community, segmentation of those various needs, and then the targeting of those deemed most attractive.

This could lead to a major reorientation of the purpose and focus of the church and could possibly affect all areas. This is obviously a daunting task and one that would not be undertaken lightly.

Some of the actions steps that could result from going down the “Reinvention Road” include:

- Move from a “Community” orientation (our schedule) to a “Destination” orientation (their schedule)
- Help people with their busy lives
- Ask the community about their needs
- Reach out for allies, partners, skills, and resources
- Meet the spiritual needs of all
- Target the needs of young people in particular



Two Children

**Two children (small), one Four, one Five,
Once saw a bee go in a hive,
They’d never seen a bee before!
So waited there to see some more.
And sure enough along they came
A dozen bees (and all the same!)
Within the hive they buzzed about;
Then, one by one, they all flew out.
Said Four: ‘Those bees are silly things,
But how I wish I had their wings!’**

Spike Milligan

And so, as we dry out from our soggy Spring, let’s soak up some sun, dip our toes in a cooling pool and thank God that, young or old, we are blessedly able to do so.

This will be the final MESSENGER before taking two months off during the summer. If you plan to travel, it would be nice to hear about your adventures when you return in the Fall. Pictures, anecdotes, stories, visits to other churches – all will be welcome in your St. John the Baptist newsletter.

David L. Paterson, Editor

- Segment the audience – e.g. singles; single parents; empty nesters; divorced or separated; Generation X (born between 1965 and 1979); Generation Y (born between 1980 and 2000)

(Continued overleaf)

• Understand that a “Post-Christendom” Generation may be looking for spirituality – not churches

• Introduce changes to the Sunday approach – redirected towards children; youths; etc.

• Switch the facility to multi-use

The presentation we received said that being a Magnetic Christian means being:

MOTIVATED by faith in the power of God in their own lives to want to be pivotal in the faith journeys of newcomers.

ATENTIVE to the needs of newcomers, remembering that they differ not in spirituality, only in the stage of their journeys.

GRACIOUS about newcomers’ ignorance and awkwardness, always aware that Jesus never embarrassed any sincere seeker.

NAURAL and kind, so that after meeting one, a newcomer would feel able to say: “Today I met a Christian”.

ENERGIZED by the power of the Holy Spirit to be focussed on ministry to others.

TRAINED sufficiently to be able to answer most questions about Christianity.

INSPIRED by the courage and determination of the original apostles to be willing to risk being “foolish” today for God.

CALLED to be a contemporary apostle, and “comfortable” in that calling.

Finally, let me repeat that we are permitted to reproduce a limited amount of the copyrighted material we received at the Magnetic Church presentation, and I will make it available to anyone who requests it.

Jim Hunt

The previous three articles in this series by Jim Hunt about “The Magnetic Church” can be found in the MESSENGERS of February, March and April respectively.

DLP

Can a Church Grow? Part 2

In April’s MESSENGER, Val Delacretaz delivered Part 1 of her response to a presentation made at St. Peter’s Church, T.M.R. This second part deals more specifically with a description of the role of music in the growth at that church.

In this issue, I want to report on the talk given by Stephen Mullin, music director at St. Peter’s. He entitled his presentation *Music in Church Growth*. Music is part of the mission of the church and this does not mean whether one chooses contemporary music over traditional.

Stephen believes that it is important to assess what we have in our church right now and what we want to see in it. That becomes our musical vision. For him, a musical director takes full care of the musical life within the church. Such a person should have the ability to play several instruments, have sincere faith and great enthusiasm. He specified that there was no priority to his list as all components are equally as important. With talent, faith and enthusiasm, one should be able to engage the whole congregation in sung worship.

Having said that, Stephen believes strongly that church music should be presented in contemporary style. When he first was hired as organist at St. Peter’s, there was a piano, keyboard, guitar, and organ. In the time since then, he has added an acoustic guitar, electric bass, drums, violin, keyboard, percussion and recorder.

What changes have to be made to develop a contemporary approach to music in the church?

First and foremost, he has transformed traditional hymns into contemporary hymns using *CCLI/You Tube*. The words are put on overhead projections and, because the tunes are not new, most people are familiar with the music and can sing along right away. He finds modern songs which sound like traditional hymns. Also he chooses modern songs which have short refrains, are easy to teach and are easily translated

into French.

We at St. John the Baptist are very blessed to have Barbara McPherson as our organist/choir director and we hear technically challenging anthems sung by the choir. We are gradually hearing the emergence of lighter church music sung by our junior choristers, sometimes accompanied on the piano and with percussion instruments – as well as, more recently, by Jeremy on his guitar.

I speak for myself when I say that I believe in the gradual transformation away from the music of earlier centuries to more contemporary settings with words that reflect twenty-first century sentiments. It seems to me that this would be one way to generate growth here at St. John the Baptist – or elsewhere for that matter. It is lovely to be in a church service where there is a *joyful noise*, where the music and words uplift the soul and *lead us on our way rejoicing!*

So, let us “Make our Joyful Noise unto the Lord”; may the verses we sing reflect our faith in the language of our day. Bravos to Stephen Mullin and to Barbara for using their talents to revitalize our churches. By embracing the best of modern trends in contemporary church music, we shall invigorate our worship and bring more young people into the fold.

Val Delacretaz, People’s Warden



In memoriam

Within recent weeks, the parish lost two long-time members.



Shirley Donaldson passed away suddenly on May 20th. The funeral service took place on May 25th in the church.

Lynn Watson had been in failing health for several months and died on June 1st. In a celebration of her life, she was remembered by her family, friends and parishioners in a Memorial Service which took place on June 4th, also in the church.

A friend remembers

The following appreciation was written to the family of Brenda Nicolas by June Hartigan. Brenda's death was mentioned in last month's MESSENGER in a short mention of her many years as a parishioner here. June Hartigan left St. J. the B. with her family as work took her husband to the United States where the family still resides, in Philadelphia. The inclusion of June's letter appears in the MESSENGER with the full approval of Brenda's children, Dr. Paul Nicolas and his sister Valerie Roberts.

It was 1983 when I first met Brenda at The Church of Saint John the Baptist in Pointe Claire. We had just moved from Glossop, Derbyshire, with our three children, Mark and Dawn who joined the choir and Daniel 6 years old at the time. Brenda made me very welcome and I joined the Bible study group and then she asked me to join with her in starting a Prayer Chain. I was honoured to be asked and we set about the task of recruiting members. Brenda had done all the groundwork in visiting priests and staff at local churches. We had such loyal members that the Prayer Chain is still working to change lives today and Brenda was faithful in that she served on it to the end.

Brenda encouraged people she met. She invited me to go on the *silent retreats* each year in the Diocese organized by the women and she served on those retreats too. We would take "Listening" courses and discuss how they could help in visiting in the parish, hospital and nursing homes. Brenda was a good listener and was not afraid to give *tough love*, when it was necessary. After some of these courses we both became Pastoral Visitors commissioned by the Bishop and recommissioned every two years. Parish Visiting was a joy to her and she would give much time and effort to the people on her list. I thank her for encouraging me to join and for the memorable experiences and people

I have met through this ministry over the years.

Peter, Daniel and I left Canada to settle in San Diego in 1990 and it was not long before Brenda came out to visit us for a week. We used the time to drive along the coastline and watch the seabirds and especially the pelicans scoop up the fish from the sea in their huge beaks. It was a happy time and she helped us to feel not so far away from friends and family in Montreal by her timely visit. Driving to the airport I got hopelessly lost and we thought she would miss her plane.



An emergency prayer was called up and we found ourselves on the way to the airport with minutes to spare. The laughter relieved the anxiety we had built up from being lost somewhere behind the large and imposing sports stadium. It was a fun week and I will treasure the memories. My son just told me he remembers that time and that we were such good friends.

One of Brenda's joys, I think, was our weekly Bible study held in members' homes. We were a close knit group who eagerly sought knowledge through the Bible and each other. The Holy Spirit would bless our study week by week. Some of the members names, not all

with us now, were George and Muriel Buckingham, Ruth Williams, Patrick and Nancy Braganza, Chas. and Brenda, Charles and Ann Lafonde, Charles and Valerie Delacretaz and myself. The Rev. John Newton and his wife and various Seminary students and other members would drop in over the years too. Chas would lead us on guitar and Brenda would start the singing and we had a group! We all received spiritual support in one way or another from that special group of like-minded people.

One of Brenda's talents was the gift of fine needlework. She spent a lot of time on a beautiful wall hanging for the church. It was made from a deep blue velvet and white satin with gold embroidery. It was stunning to look at because it showed the communion vessel, the cup and the grapes and the wheat. Her tailoring was fine and of professional quality and she wore all that she made and always looked beautiful in them. I remember her telling me how she made (her daughter) Valerie's wedding dress and that it had been a joy for her to do this.

Brenda had such a love for her family and especially her grandchildren who were so precious to her. I never tired of hearing of the latest words or feats her grandchildren did after she had visited them. She took care of her father-in-law and made sure that he was happy and that his needs were met. I do remember her looking for a home and the utmost care she took in researching it for him. He was very happy there, I remember, from his first day.

We will all miss Brenda greatly. Here is a Bible verse she loved and which reminds me so much of her and offer it as a prayer to the family in her memory.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans: 15, v.13.

June Hartigan, former parishioner

Remember when ...

A teenaged friend asked me the other day, "What was your favourite *fast food* when you were growing up?"

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow."

"C'mon, you've gotta be kidding. Where did you eat – really?"

"Actually, I ate at a place called *home*", I explained. "My mother cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the lad was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to ask permission to leave the table.

With thanks to PHB

A riddle

After his breakthrough in the recent election, Jack Layton bumped into the Governor General in the parliamentary cafeteria. He asked Mr. Johnson, "Have you any tips that will make me an effective Leader of the Opposition?"

"Well," said the G-G, "the most important thing is to surround yourself with intelligent people." Layton frowned and then asked, "How can I tell if they are really intelligent?"

Mr. Johnson took a sip of coffee and called Larry Smith over. "Just ask each one this riddle." Turning to Larry, he said, "Answer me this, Larry. Your mother and father have a child who is not your brother or your sister. Who is it?" LS thought for a moment and then answered, "Oh, that would be me!"

"So there you have it, Jack – a sure-fire test!", said the G-G.

The leader of the opposition went back to his office and called a former colleague to test the theory. "Answer this for me, Iggy. Your mother and father have a child who is not your brother or your sister. Who is it?"

"I'm not up to speed on that one, Jack.



On Saturday, 14th May last, the Church Hall was filled to overflowing - and that was before any buyers arrived. The generosity of parishioners packed the stage and hall to the rafters with those treasures that the rest of us cannot do without - until the next Rummage Sale, that is! By the time the sale ended at noon, the Women's Guild had raised over \$2400.00 for church funds. Congratulations and a big vote of thanks to those who helped set up, sold or contributed.

Let me get back to you." Iggy called around the remnants of his team but none could come up with the answer. In desperation, after clearing more stuff from his desk, he headed down to the men's room where he happened to notice Stephen Harper's shoes in the next stall. Iggy asked the P. M. "Steve, before I go, could you answer this question for me? Your mother and father have a child who is not your brother or your sister. Who is it?"

Harper answered back, "That's easy, you has-been, it's me!" Mr. Ignatief flushed and smiled to himself. He couldn't wait to call Jack.

"Say, Jacko, I put on my red shoes and did some research and I have your answer. It is Stephen Harper." But instead of sounding pleased, Layton got mad and yelled down the line, "No, you idiot, it is not! It is Larry Smith!"

With thanks to Gilles

Strawberry Social



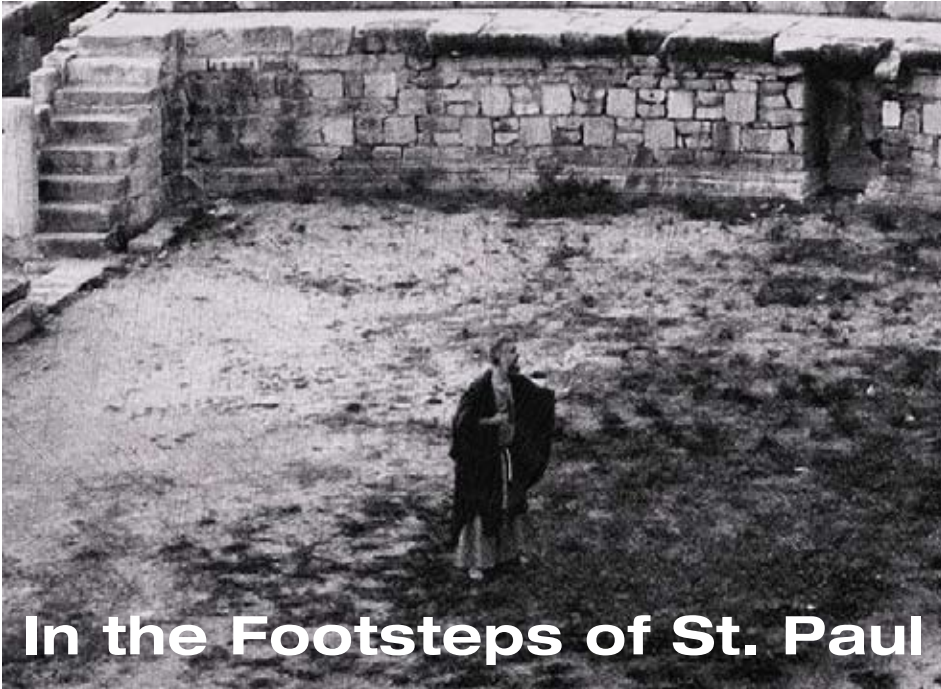
The Strawberry Social will be held on Tuesday, June 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Avoid disappointment and reserve your spot by calling Donna Sauvé (514-694-3325) or Carol Glencross (514-695-2288).

Dear God...

... do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does?
Nathan

... please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year.
Peter

The following article is a description of the trip which one of our parishioners, Carol Johansen, took, along with others and Bishop Barry Clarke, during the Fall of last year. The illustrative photographs are selected from several which the author submitted; all, including the ones which had to be left out, are worthy of a MESSENGER of their own!



In the Footsteps of St. Paul

Last November, I was privileged to be able to go on the Bishop's Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, following in the footsteps of St. Paul. I went with Anne, a friend from St. George's (where I work).

We flew from Montreal, via Paris, to Athens where we stayed for two nights. As we arrived in the evening, our first real feel for ancient Greece was the view of the floodlit Acropolis, seen from the rooftop of our hotel. The next day, we set off by bus, with our guide, for the Acropolis. On leaving the bus, we stopped part way up at the Areopagus, a natural pulpit where St. Paul preached at the altar to "an unknown god" – Acts 17:22-31. We toured the Acropolis, including the amphitheatre known as the Odeon of Herodus Attica, which is still used for concerts, operas and ballets. The highest and most impressive structure is the Parthenon, built in the 5th century B.C., an eternal symbol of aesthetic perfection, dedicated to the goddess Athena. In the afternoon, we were free to wander around Athens, taking in the many sights, including the Agora, or market place, where St. Paul preached on many occasions, and the Olympic stadium built for the first modern Olympics in 1895.

The next day, we left Athens and headed for Corinth. Our first stop was at the Corinth Canal, which cuts through the narrow neck of the isthmus which joins the Peloponnese (the most southern area of the Greek mainland) to the rest of Greece. The idea of cutting this canal was first conceived by the Romans, but owing to the great depth of the bedrock, it was not actually built until between 1882 and 1893. The idea was to shorten the shipping distance between the Adriatic and Piraeus seas by some 200 miles but it is now too narrow for most modern ships. From here, we went on to the ancient city of Corinth where we saw the temple of Apollo, one of the oldest in Greece. We went into the old trading centre of Corinth and saw the Bema, the wall in front of which St. Paul would have preached. In the museum in Corinth we saw a number of headless statues from Roman times. Apparently, they built them in marble without heads, so that when the Emperors or Generals changed, they only had to build new heads! We then left for a fairly long

drive to Old Olympus. Unfortunately, we saw very little here as we arrived at our hotel after dark and had to be on the road again by 7:30 the next morning.

We went by bus the next morning to the port of Katakolon where we embarked on the main part of our trip which was by cruise boat. This was a new experience for me as I had never been on a cruise before. The ship was relatively small but quite comfortable. We spent the whole of the first day at sea and were able to wander around the ship and get our bearings. In the afternoon, we had an interesting talk on the places that we were going to be visiting over the next few days.

The next morning, we arrived at the island of Patmos. We had a very early start, something we got used to, having breakfast on the deck in the dark at 6:00 am!! Our first stop was at the Grotto or Cave of the Apocalypse where St. John was imprisoned with his scribe and where he received his Revelation. It is still an active church and, being Sunday, a mass was in progress but we were allowed to file through and saw the actual cave part where St. John was kept and what purported to be the outline of his body in the rock. We then climbed further up to the Monastery of St. John, still an active monastery, where we saw magnificent icons and frescos. We were back on the boat by 10:00 a.m. and sailed for Turkey, landing at the port of Kusadasi in the middle of the afternoon. We were then driven to the ancient city of Miletus which used to be a port at the mouth of the river Meander which has silted up and it is now well inland. St. Paul went to the port of Miletus on his third missionary journey, bypassing Ephesus where he had met with troubles on his previous visit. Whilst at Miletus, he sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church (Acts 20:17), where he preached to them. As we were shown around the ancient city, we were taken into the amphitheatre and invited to sit down and "St. Paul" appeared and preached to us (mainly Ephesians chapter 3) – it was very moving and we could hear every word.

The next morning we visited Ephesus. I think this was the highlight of our tour. The town of Ephesus was also once a port but the river has been silted in. The excavations in Ephesus have been going on for 150 years and are still ongoing today. A huge amount of the city has been uncovered and it is fascinating to see how advanced the people of that time were, with fountains, public toilets and sewers (see below!)



Bishop Barry inspects the 'public toilets' in Ephesus!

The Library of Celsus, Ephesus



The huge Library of Celsus is magnificent and there are two amphitheatres, the smaller one inside the main walls and the larger one, where St. Paul would have preached, outside the walls in the main market area. Everywhere one walks, the

streets and steps are all marble, in so many different colours. From the large amphitheatre, the beautiful marble Harbour Road leads down to where the harbour would have been.

Our afternoon visit was to Pergamon, one of the seven churches in the Revelation of St. John. As the road up to it was not strong enough for the buses we went up and back in a series of taxis – a somewhat hair-raising experience! During the day, our ship had sailed without us to the harbour of Dikili where we met up with it that evening.

The next day was not a “biblical” day but a visit to the fascinating city of Istanbul. We saw magnificent mosques and museums and ended up shopping and bargaining in the Grand Bazaar - quite an experience. Everywhere we went, there were street sellers trying to sell us stuff – you really had to guard your wallets!

After a night and morning at sea, we landed at the port of Kavala – back in Greece. From there we went by bus to the ancient city of Philippi – another sight that is still very much under excavation. In the amphitheatre, “St. Paul” appeared again – it wasn’t quite as moving the second time around. We saw the actual prison cell where St. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for one night, then an earthquake came and their chains fell off, but much to the amazement of the guards, they didn’t escape (Acts 16:25-28). From Philippi, we drove a short distance to the Baptistry of Lydia by the River Gargitis. This was where Lydia, a fairly well-off lady because she was ‘a dealer in purple cloth’, was the first European woman to be baptized (Acts 16:13-15). A modern baptistry has been built here and a special shrine built by the river. Baptisms are performed here each year on the Feast of Lydia.

The next day we landed in Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece. We saw parts of the old city, which were really surrounded by the large modern city. We also went to Berea where St. Paul had preached in the Jewish synagogue, the Bereans being more receptive to his message than the Thessalonians (Acts 17:10-14). There is no evidence left of this synagogue but a very beautiful outdoor altar, covered in mosaics, has been built on the site. When we were at the altar, our friend “St. Paul” appeared again – the fascinating thing was that, although we were much closer to him than in the amphitheatres, we could not hear him nearly as clearly!

After our final night on board ship, with special celebrations at dinner time, we landed at the main port of Athens, Piraeus, one of the busiest ports in Europe. One final bus excursion took us on a trip well before the time of Christianity, to the Ancient city of Delphi. This was the religious centre of classical Greece. It was chosen by the ancient



The cell where Paul and Silas were imprisoned



Temple of Apollo, Corinth

Greeks as the spot for their most sacred and famed Oracle of Apollo. It was the greatest sanctuary and spiritual centre of the world at that time. It was a beautiful place right up in the mountains and the drive up there was also spectacular.

Finally back to our hotel in Athens for a short night as we had to leave for the airport at 4:30 a.m. the next morning. It was altogether an unforgettable trip and a wonderful – but fairly tiring – holiday.

Carol Johansen

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is... There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all... be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Paul, writing to the Christians at Ephesus

Temple of Apollo, Delphi



Bravo, Jonathan • Kudos, Bruce

“McGill student Jonathan Glencross recognized by Earth Day Canada for environmental achievement”. So ran the headline in the McGill Reporter of June 7th last. It continued, *“Less than a week after receiving his B.A. from McGill, Jonathan Glencross is about to collect a major environmental award for helping to make the University’s operations more sustainable.”* Jonathan will receive the 2011 Individual Hometown Heroes Award which comes with a cash prize of \$10,000 (\$5,000 to keep and \$5,000 to donate to the environmental cause of the winner’s choice. In Jonathan’s case, see <http://localfoodplus.ca/>). Obviously, a well-deserved honour.



June 7th also was a significant date for his Dad, Bruce, who celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination – a proud day for our Rector, wife Carol and their family!



A very sincere "Thank You" ...

... to those dedicated individuals, Brenda, Carol, Susan and Ted who, Sunday by Sunday, offered the children care and instruction in the Church School – not to mention the production of an excellent pageant at Christmas. The Church School 'season' ended on Sunday, June 5th, with a Bible Bingo and brunch (pancakes and sausages!) Also on that Sunday, a tree was planted in the CS garden. Master of Ceremonies for the tree planting was award winner, Jonathan Glencross (see previous page.)

While on the subject of gardens, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Liz Steinson whose green thumb ensures that the church's flower beds flourish so well.



Photography: Carol Glencross