

LORD, THY WORD ABIDETH

Sir Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) succeeded to a baronetcy in 1859. This hymn is based on Psalm 119: 105, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.' It has an intricate six syllable lines and a 'feminine rhyme': rhyming on two syllables, the second unstressed. He was vicar of Monkland, Herefordshire, UK. This hymn was written in defense of biblical infallibility after a heresy trial of an Anglican bishop in Africa, who was acquitted by the Privy Council.

I WAITED FOR THE LORD MY GOD

This hymn is traditionally attributed to Francis Rous (1579-1659) and William Barton (1597-1678) and a version of Psalm 40: 1-5, and first found in Scottish Psalter of 1650. Rous was a Member of Parliament, Speaker in Barebone's Parliament, and one of Cromwell's Council of State. He was Provost of Eton in 1643, and was buried in Eton College Chapel. Barton was vicar of Mayfield, Staffordshire, UK, and later St. Mary's, Leicester and 'a conforming Puritan and close friend of Richard Baxter. His version of the Psalms was much preferred by the Dissenters (Congregationalists, Baptists, later Methodists).

BE KNOWN TO US IN BREAKING BREAD

James Montgomery (1771-1854) wrote this communion hymn about the two elements, bread and wine, and translated them into spiritual nourishment for the communicant. Montgomery is highly respected and a hymn writer. Born at Irvine, Ayrshire, to a Moravian (Anabaptist) family, he attended a Moravian school, failed to enter the ministry and became a baker. This was unsatisfactory to him so joined the radical newspaper, Sheffield Register. The editor fled the country and Montgomery took over and renamed it The Sheffield Iris. He was imprisoned and fined twice for his strong convictions. He advocated missionary work and the Bible Society and crusaded against slavery. He became one of the foremost citizens of Sheffield, and a prolific hymn writer.

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

This is another hymn by Sir Henry Williams Baker. This hymn is based on Psalm 23 and on his death-bed the author repeated the verse beginning with 'Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,' (stanza 3). The imagery is brilliant: the Good Shepherd carrying home the lost lamb (us) upon his shoulder (again stanza 3), the spreading of the table and chalice upon it (Holy Communion) 'transporting' us to Christ's presence. It also has 'feminine rhyme' (second and fourth lines). Ian Bradley, University of Aberdeen and hymnologist, has written about the tune, 'Many marriages of words and tunes effected ... have remained indissoluble to this day. Some involved newly written hymns and melodies, like "Eternal Father, strong to save" to MELITA and "The King of Love my Shepherd is" to DOMINUS REGIT ME.

The Chapel Times

6 October 2019

THANKSGIVING AHEAD

Next Sunday is part of the Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend. There will be a service at 7 p.m. at the chapel for those who are in Wolfville for the holiday. In the Annapolis Valley we are conscious of the abundance of crops surrounding us. Certainly we want to thank our Creator for this immense privilege.

We might also think, and help, those who are not as fortunate as ourselves, both here and in foreign lands. Let us open our lives to this anomaly and decide how we might help mitigate this disparity: give or volunteer at local food banks, give to overseas charities, learn more about sustainable agriculture, and pray that solutions might be found to equalize the food supply so all might have a share of these resources.



Next Sunday also will be the last service for the acting chaplain before he leaves for overseas. He will return just in time for the Remembrance Day Service at Convocation Hall on 11 November.

ELECTION TIME

Everyone knows that on 21 October there will be a national election. Most of us are given the privilege to vote and it is our civic duty rather than an 'option.' It is also our duty to inform ourselves of the issues that are involved, and who is standing for this constituency.

'Democracy' depends upon the people taking responsibility for their government. As Christians, we know I Timothy 2: 1-4. Part of our prayer is actually voting so that we will have a just, righteous and true government so that we will have the freedom to believe and worship, along with the other dignities which people have a right to expect in a civilized society.



CANDLES LIGHT, CANDLES BRIGHT

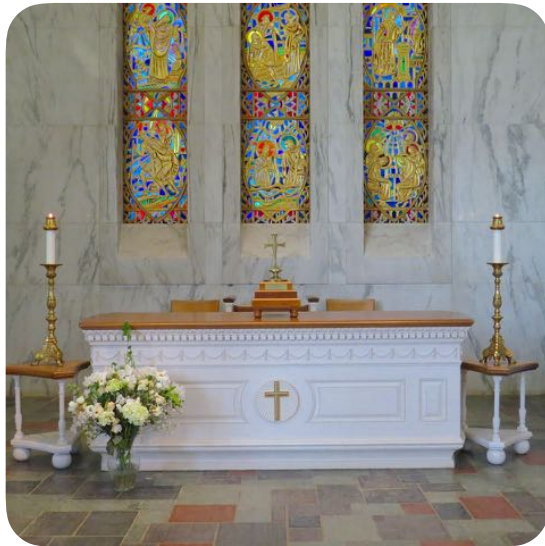
Each service sees the altar candles lit before the service. They represent the two natures of Christ: human and divine, and how Christ is the light of the world. They bring a warm, enlightening and homely atmosphere to the chapel's worship.

What people may not know is that they were presented by Isobel (Mader) Horton, the widow of the late Rev'd Sydney Roland Horton, in loving memory of her husband. Mrs. Horton was University Librarian, and in retirement assisted in the University Archives. Sydney (Syd) Horton was a Baptist minister, graduating from Acadia in 1941. He also was a school counsellor. Born in Moncton, N. B. in December 1916, graduated from Moncton High School. He married Isobel (Acadia 1936) in August 1941, just after his graduation, and he became minister of the Springfield, King's Co., N. S.

Syd faithfully attended chapel services, sitting in the back pew of the south side. It was not unusual for him to be heard walking down the north aisle on Monday mornings to discuss the previous night's sermon. His funeral was conducted here, in the chapel he loved.

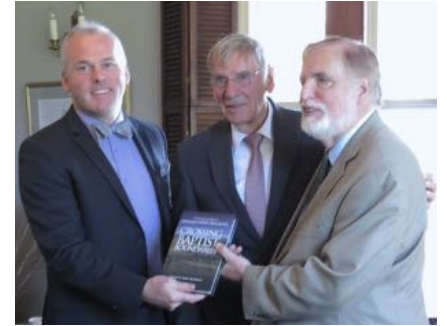
Isobel, dignified and mighty, was called by the acting chaplain, to the horror of many, 'Izzy', but she knew it to be a term of affection and her Christmas gifts (always home-make delicious candy) was signed, 'from Issy.'

Remember these two fine and honourable Acadia graduates and the significant contributions which they made during their lives, and the light that shines because of them on either end of the chapel altar.



FESTSCHRIFT FESTIVAL

A special kind of academic celebration was held a week ago. It is the presentation of a festschrift: a book composed of papers written by various admiring scholars to honour a particular academic. In this case it was the Rev'd Dr. William H. Brackney, former distinguished professor at Acadia Divinity College, a former Head of a religious education department and President of McMaster Divinity College. He is the author of dozens of books, papers and articles.



l-r: Dr. Colin Godwin, President of Carey College, Dr. Erich Geldbach, editor, Dr. Bill Brackney

It was held at the Blomidon in with guests from Europe, Vancouver and eastern Canada. Two special guests were the Rev'd Dr. Colin Godwin, President of Carey College, a Baptist seminary on the West Coast, and the Rev'd Dr. Erich Geldbach, distinguished German Baptist scholar, who edited the volume and also contributed a paper. Your acting chaplain contributed a paper and constructed the Index to the volume, *Crossing Baptist Boundaries*. We congratulate Bill on this achievement and honour.

...about those Hymns

October 6

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Fred Kaan was a revolutionary author of hymns and his subject was almost always about peace and justice. He was born at Haarlem, The Netherlands July 1929 and died in 2009. He lived as a young child during the brutal Nazi occupation of World War II and this undoubtedly influenced his subject matter. He saw three grandparents die of starvation and his parents were heavily involved in the Resistance. Ordained in 1955, his hymns have been translated into 15 languages. This hymn well represents his heritage.

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