

MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Spring Newsletter 2021



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis
University Chaplain

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DEAR FRIENDS

The Manning Memorial Chapel Team greets you with best wishes for your safety, health, and happiness at Eastertide, Pentecost and along the journey through the Christian calendar! The Winter 2021 Semester was full of opportunities for us to have meaningful experiences as we served the students and the wider Acadia University community. In addition to the regular worship Services, Bible Studies and Daily Prayer, we had special activities including the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Black History Month, the baptism of a student and Easter Sunday Communion Service - back in the Chapel and live-streamed on the Chapel Website and YouTube!

THE CHAPEL TEAM

Leadership of the Chapel Activities was provided by Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Lewis, University Organist and Chapel Choir Director John Scott, Chapel Assistants, and the Chapel Choir. The year was challenging because of the pandemic and other factors. Challenges at times affected attendance and participation of members of the Choir and the Chapel Assistants in the activities. Overall, Team Members were resilient and committed to serving in their respective roles.

The Chapel Choir rehearsed faithfully on a weekly basis and pre-recorded the music for the Sunday Worship Services. With agility, the Choir members pioneered live-streaming of worship at a sung Maundy Thursday Evensong. Along with the other members of the Team and others from the Acadia community, they participated in the Easter



Sunday Communion Service which was live-streamed. All Team Members rose to the challenge of leading a Communion Service while observing COVID-19 protocols. The acquisition of special video and audio equipment facilitated the recording and streaming of the Worship Services and other Chapel activities.

ACTIVITIES OF CHAPEL ASSISTANTS

- ◆ The six Chapel Assistants continued to serve in the Winter Semester. They met on a weekly basis for conversation and reflection, including the reviews of (1) Mark's Gospel, and (2) the book, *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
- ◆ Each Chapel Assistant led Daily Prayer once every other week, and three assisted with the IT services for the Chapel programmes.
- ◆ In February, a reflection on Interfaith Relations was led by retired United Church of Canada Minister, the Reverend Dr. Robert Hankinson. Rob shared his journey of interfaith relations beginning in his childhood. A key point in the journey was in Edmonton between 1980 and 2018 where he served as a Minister of successive congregations, Chaplain to an Assisted Living Facility plus on call Chaplain at the University of Alberta Hospital, and subsequently On-Call Chaplain with the City. He served as Chair of the Board of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action and in 2008 was appointed Secretary to the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN). Along the way, Rob read many inspiring and informative books on interfaith relationships. He shared a bibliography with the group.
- ◆ The Chapel Team hosted an in-person and online screening of the movie *Mrs. Doubtfire*, to give students a few laughs before the start of exams.

CHAPEL CHOIR ACTIVITIES

The Chapel Choir continued to meet weekly for rehearsal and recording for pre-recorded Sunday Chapel services following all safe-singing protocols - yes, that means singing with masks on! Again this term the Chapel Choir took advantage of an exceptional opportunity to gather with singers from across the country for a Zoom workshop with Free Play Duo, hosted by the Bridge Choral Collective and Kokopelli Choir Association.

The Choir was really pleased to take part in a special project hosted by the Acadia Performing Arts Series - recording backing tracks for one of Ari Hest's songs, "Get Going". You can see the video on the Acadia PAS YouTube channel, you'll find it linked from the Chapel website, or you can go directly to <https://bit.ly/3hpLAIP>

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Black History Month, Special Guest Preachers were Rev'd. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada, and Rev'd. Dr. Rhonda Britton, Acadia Alumna and President of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada at the opening and closing services for BHM, respectively.

International Women's Day Service, March 07, 2021 honoured women at Acadia who contribute to the community's health, safety, and wellbeing.

University Baccalaureate Service aired on Sunday, May 9, at 10:30 a.m. (ADT). The Baccalaureate Preacher was the Reverend Dr. Harry Gardner, immediate past President of the Acadia Divinity College. Joining the Chapel Team and participating in the Service were Dr. Bruce Galloway, Acadia Chancellor, President and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Peter Ricketts, and Dr. Anna Robbins, President, Acadia Divinity College. Members of the Class of 2021 taking part in the Service were: Olivia Shive, Life President; D'Azure Harvey, Cap and Gown Speaker; and Noah Archibald, Graduating Chapel Assistant.



Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL EVENTS

Black Perspectives in Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Conversation, February 11, 2022
Presenters were: Dr. Claudine Bonner, Dr. Martin Tango, Dr. Marc Ramsay, Dr. Donna Seamone, Dr. Anna Frammartino Wilks from Acadia and special guests Sidney Idemudia - Acadia Alum and Executive Director of Imhotep's Legacy Academy at Dalhousie University, and Professor Anthony Reddie - Editor of Black Theology an International Journal and Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, UK.

Crossovers in the Music of Spirituality and Culture: a conversation on race, reciprocity, and cultural appropriation, February 27, 2022
Special guests were: Pat Watson and Kevin Parks from Nova Scotia and Hugh Douse from Jamaica.

All of these services and special events can be found on the Chapel website - chapel.acadiau.ca



COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ACADIA PROGRAMMES & WOLFVILLE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Virtual Event with Alumni Affairs The Event was captioned, *Hindsight is 2020*. The Chaplain spoke with Oonagh Proudfoot, Executive Director, Alumni Affairs, and guests reflecting on ways in which spirituality can be included in strategies to cope with stress and anxiety plus have meaningful lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC) Participation in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Bible Study Series organized by WAICC in January 2021 and the WAICC Good Friday Walk with the Cross 2021. For more about WAICC, go to the website - <https://www.waicc.org/>

Kings Presbyterian Church baked cookies for students to provide 'sweet comfort' as students ended lectures and prepared to start final examinations and assessments. The Chapel Team distributed the cookies to students. The cookies were enjoyed by all!



A BAPTISM



On Easter Sunday Morning, April 4, 2021, Acadia University student Samaria Paynter was baptized. Samaria is a second-generation Acadia student from Bermuda. Samaria's mother is an Acadia Alumna, as is her Aunt. During the Service at the Wolfville Baptist Church, Samaria was baptized by Acadia Chaplain the Rev'd. Dr. Marjorie Lewis and the Wolfville Baptist Minister, the Rev'd. Dr. Scott Kindred-Barnes. Samaria, who gave her testimony during the Service, was prepared for baptism by the Acadia Chaplain.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the Chapel through the Chaplaincy Endowment Fund, you may do so online by visiting the following link:
giving.acadiau.ca/chaplaincyfund

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You can always see what we are up to by visiting our social media platforms:



[chapel.acadiau.ca](https://www.chapel.acadiau.ca)



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