



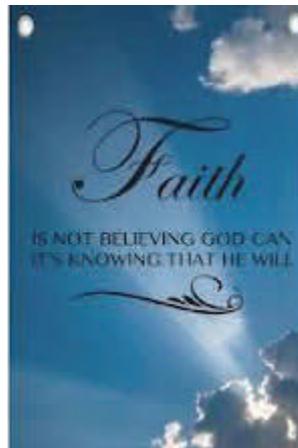
## Warden's Message

High fences make good neighbours. This old saying underlies a simple observation: boundaries are important. Whether one is aware of it or not, there are boundaries inside the Sunday morning liturgy. These minor rules help to bring about order and decency to our worship of God. These are what are called “rubrics” – another name for the italicized instructions that pepper our prayer books. In this fall issue of the Diakonia we will be taking a short peek at these rubrics. Reading between the lines is a very helpful exercise for anyone responsible for leading service – a task often carried out by Lay Readers. As we worship God, may we always be mindful of the wonderful privilege that has been entrusted to our care. And may we continue to do so with reverence, tuneful to the words that mark our place.

Yours in Christ,  
The Reverend Thomas Henderson

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## President's Message

*"Summer Time an' the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high"*

This spiritual refrain from "Porgy and Bess", reminds us to relax and enjoy the time with family, to rest and be thankful for His care for us.

I hope that you have had an opportunity to enjoy the summer, perhaps not through fishing but sailing or camping, or just relaxing on your patio or deck. We don't grow cotton, but many have vegetable gardens and the fields, vineyards and orchards are full of God's bounty. Enjoy the natural beauty all around us. I pray that as summer winds down you are now refreshed and ready for the busy time ahead.



I would like to offer a sincere *"Thank You"* to all who responded to the Diakonia survey: the response was not overwhelming, but showed a varied and busy ministry. I was delighted that so many are involved in further education, especially the EFM (Education for Ministry) course. Having graduated 2 years ago, I know of its value. Have you explored the ***"LEAP for faith"*** book and programme? The book was written by a parishioner of the Church of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour. It is has grown from the book and spiritual development course, to a second TV series, to a website, a blog and interest and excitement around it continues to grow. Check out the website at [www.leapforfaith.org](http://www.leapforfaith.org).



Our Annual Meeting was fairly well attended, considering the weather! You may well remember the torrential rain on June 5<sup>th</sup>, but all those who registered were in attendance. The day began with Eucharist, followed by the business meeting and a delicious luncheon. Canon Jody Clarke was the guest speaker for the afternoon and his message was well received. The topic was "Passion", like "Love". Passion has many meanings, but Jody spoke of being passionate, not only for our ministry, but in our faith, our daily life and our love for God and each other. If we are

not passionate about what we do, we are not giving 100%. Yes, we all get tired and frustrated at times, but the source of our strength is everlasting and ever available.

How many of you are familiar with the book “*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*” by Robert Schnase? The parish I serve used it during Lent this year; it is a way of encouraging people to re-think their faith, and a way of inviting and welcoming those seeking a place of worship. There are five chapters: Radical Hospitality; Passionate Worship; Intentional Faith Development; Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. Five families were chosen to design and make banners or posters or hangings to represent the title of each chapter; the hymns and homily continued the theme. It was a wonderful experience as each week a different hanging appeared on our church walls!

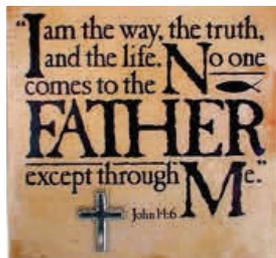
I thought about the chapters of this book, but from God’s point of view, (this was before I even opened the book) especially chapters 1, 4, and 5, and I would like to share with you some of my thoughts.

### ***Radical Hospitality***

Doesn’t God offer Radical hospitality and how often do we accept? We receive an invitation to become part of His Family. We are given a new and special name. Although unworthy, we are all welcome at His table, to share in the Heavenly Banquet, yes, even with dirty feet and ragged clothes. In spite of all we have done, all our sins are forgiven and we have a special dwelling place prepared for us. If that isn’t Radical hospitality, I don’t know what is!

### ***Risk Taking Mission and Service***

Hasn’t God taken a risk with us since Day 1? The biggest risk was in giving us free will, and what a mess we have made of that gift! Why do we make the wrong choices? We have been given every gift, offered every opportunity and yet we still prefer to do it our way, rejecting Him, the Servant Lord,



except when we are in trouble or pain? Why are we so stubborn and disobedient, refusing His Love? We are to care for our brothers and sisters, to be the Good Samaritan, but in spite of our failures God continues to love and serve us.

### ***Extravagant Generosity***

Just look around you- what do you lack? Every creature has its domain and source of food; consider the number of stars and planets, the radiance of flowers and birds, the variety of animals, people to love and care for us, the warmth of friendship and the list goes on.

God gives and does not require payment, He delights in giving! He is always available and heals our aching heart. Do you take a risk in offering service and love, even in the face of rejection? It isn't always easy to take that step, knowing you may be rebuffed. How extravagant are you?

As I begin my term of office as President of the Association, I ask for your prayers and support. I will serve you to the best of my ability. If you have any ideas that can help to improve our ministry or to share what works well in your parish, please pass them on to your Regional Rep or directly to anyone on the Board of Standards. The more we share our successes (and failures!), the stronger we will become. I look forward to working with all of you.



Enjoy the days as summer winds down, travel safely and plan to attend the Fall conference in October. It is going to be a wonderful weekend!

Your Sister in Christ,  
Shirley Williams

### **Vice-President's Message**

I was very happy to meet many of you at the Annual Meeting at Christ Church, Stellarton in early June.

As this is my first Vice-President’s report, I would like to take the opportunity to say how much I am looking forward to my term and serving the Lay Readers across the Diocese.

I am concerned that some of our Regions are without representation on the Executive. I hope we can work towards rectifying this situation. If you are unsure of which Regions are in need of a representative – they are PEI, Chebucto (Halifax) and Fort Sackville. If you are interested in serving in this capacity or would like more information, please contact either myself or anyone on the Executive. I encourage everyone to become involved in our Association.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference which will be held at the Bethany Centre, Antigonish on Friday—Sunday, October 25-27, 2013.

David Harrison



## Curious, ever curious - what shall I wear at Church?

Fortunate for Lay Readers, the Diocesan Lay Readers’ Association has authorized a dress code.

Vestments for leading in a service are either 1) an alb or 2) a cassock and surplice. During non-Eucharistic services, an academic hood may be worn with a cassock and surplice. Lay readers are responsible for the ownership of their vestments. The

badge of office is a medallion featuring the shield of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, attached to a ribbon, one that is coloured purple for a lay reader or blue for a lay reader in training. Orders for medallions can be made through the Diocesan Lay Readers’ Association care of our former president, Mr. Dennis Eisan,



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telephone number (902) 435-6217. The cost is \$15. A lay reader or a lay reader in training shall wear this badge of office while participating at public worship. No other adornments or embellishments (e.g. pins, ribbons, medallions, etc.), other than a lay reader's medallion, are to be worn with one's vestments during public worship. The only exception may be a poppy.

For more information regarding the rules and regulations governing lay readers in this diocese, please check out the Lay Readers' Handbook at our webpage:

<http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/documents/LayReadersHandbook-June2008revision.pdf>



## RUBRICS

*“Moreover, the number and hardness of the Rules called the Pie, and the manifold changings of the Service, was the cause, that to turn the Book only was so hard and intricate a matter, that many times there was more business to find out what should be read, than to read it when it was found out.”*

From the ‘Original Preface (1549) altered in 1552 and 1662 concerning the service of the Church’, *BCP* page 715.

Confused? Many people in the Middle Ages were very confused when trying to master the intricacies of worshipping God. A major reform of the English Reformation aimed to simplify the liturgy for people. To aid in this task “**rubrics**” were interspersed in the new *Book of Common Prayer* to bring “*plainly forth*” to its respective pages “*some Rules*” “*few in number, so they are plain and easy to be understood*”. (*BCP*, 716)

***‘Rubric’ refers to the colour, ‘Red’ or ‘Ruby’, of the directions printed, originally and in many editions subsequently, in the Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services.***

It is sometimes said that the Hebrews wandered forty years in the wilderness because Moses was a man and wouldn't ask anyone for directions.

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer tells us in the 'Preface' of the first Prayer Book in English that directions can with the best intentions end up complicating things to the point that they misdirect and distract from their purpose, which is to be like good manners that put us at ease and at home with our surroundings.



Cranmer sought to limit the instructions so that anyone could follow them not just liturgical specialists with a guidebook.

In constructing the Book of Common Prayer, as that title implies, the Archbishop intended the book to be in the hands of every worshipper.

It pays to look over the Rubrics carefully beforehand – to read the fine print. It pays to ask and follow the directions. They describe things such as posture (e.g. *BCP*, page 4), and place (e.g. page lvi), where to find Lessons and Psalms (e.g. pages xvi to lv), how to announce readings (e.g. page 7), etc., etc., so that people of God on the journey of worship move easily from meditation to contemplation, from the Gate to the Court of Heaven, from purification (confession and absolution) to illumination (in scripture), and ultimately, to union with God (in prayer!).

### *The W5 of Rubrics*

**Who?** Watch for roles. Words such as “Minister” or “Leader” usually indicate that anyone can say certain prayers. Words such as “Priest” or “Bishop” or “Celebrant” will often restrict or limit who can officiate or lead certain parts of the service.

**What?** Watch for basic instructions.

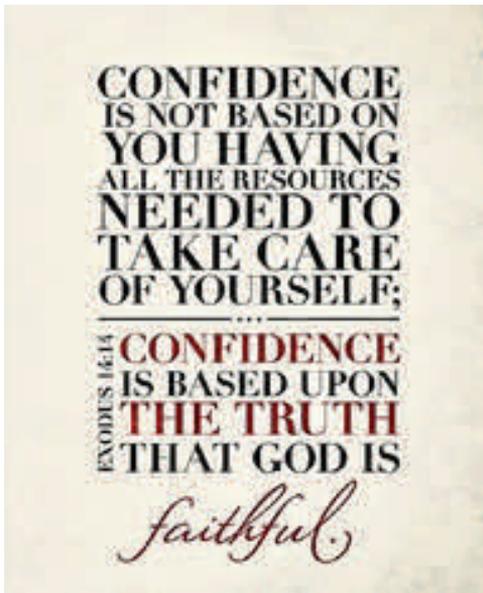
**When?** Watch for auxiliary verbs such as “may”, “shall”, “must”, and “will.” Certain parts of a service may be optional; others are required. “May” is conditional; “shall”, “must”, and “will” specify compliance.

**Where?** Watch for redirection. Words such as “See page ...” will sometimes refer the reader or leader to other places or resources in the book.

**Why?** Watch for explanations. Sometimes located under the heading of “General Rubrics” these give rationale for why certain things are said or done, or why certain things are not said or done. These help to give the reader or leader a sense of the meaning and importance of the words and practices found in services or sections of the book.

**Special note:** always remember, when leading service, “rubrics” are your friends. They tell you the dos and don’ts that prevent you from getting into trouble. They add to the order and decency of the worship.

Archdeacon David Garrett  
and  
Reverend Tom Henderson



## From the Editor's Desk



Well here we are with another edition of the Diakonia. When I took over as Editor, I was told that the Fall issue was the teaching issue, so I ask you the question, **"What would you like to learn about that could be included in the Fall issue next year?"** With this kind of input from you, we can seek out individuals in the coming months to write articles about what you want to know. We need your input ... this Newsletter is your Newsletter. Help us make it worthy of your time to read it.

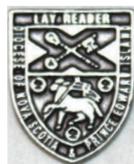
Congratulations to Shirley, Dave, and Pauline for stepping forward to serve our Association and to those who are continuing on in their current positions. There is much work to be done in the Lord's mission field and it is good to work together.

With every blessing,  
Victoria Henrikson

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### **Do you have a supply of pins belonging to the Diocesan Lay Readers Association?**

If you are holding some of the Lay Readers "lapel pins", we are asking that they be returned to Dennis Eisan. He takes care of our supplies and is in the process of determining an accurate accounting of the number of pins still available for sale.



So if you are "holding" some of these pins, we would appreciate it if you could return them to:

*Dennis Eisan,  
1309 Main Street  
Dartmouth, NS B2Z 1B2*

You can also reach him at [dennislinda@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:dennislinda@ns.sympatico.ca) to let him know that you are returning pins.

Thanks for your help with this effort.

## Introducing your newly elected President *Shirley Williams*

My journey as a Lay Reader began over 20 years ago with a six-week parish discernment process, followed by the regular 12-week training course, two years “in training” and finally, acceptance as a licensed Lay Reader.

Over those years, my ministry as a Lay Reader has included Pastoral care including palliative care support at the Dartmouth General Hospital. I have organized and participated in many services, both in the Parish and in local Nursing Homes, as well as the usual duties in the Sanctuary. My ministry has led me to become a member of the Board of Standards and most recently Vice-President of the Diocesan Lay Readers Association and to have participated in the recent re-writing of the Lay Readers Handbook.

A number of other ministries I have been a part of through the years have included - the Girls Auxiliary (GA), Alpha, Cur-sillo, Parish and Regional Councils, member of our Parish’s Liturgy Committee, past President and current President of our Parish ACW. I have been a member of the Diocesan ACW Board for 8 years, serving as its President for a two-year term.

Prior to my present ministries, I was active with the “ladies” organization of every church I attended, whether the organization was called the Guild, the Auxiliary and now, the ACW. In those “far off” days, the ladies were usually members of the Altar Guild, Sunday School Teacher, possibly Choir members and general “chief cook and bottle washer”.

While living in Ontario, I was actively involved with the Hospital Auxiliary (including positions on the executive) and also with the Art Gallery.

I come to this position with a varied background in church ministries and offer to do my best to serve the needs of the Lay Readers of the Diocese of NS and PEI for the next two years.



## Lay Readers' Prayer

Loving and eternal God, who through your Son, Jesus Christ, calls your people and sends them forth to witness and serve in your name, bless each member of the Lay Readers' Association of this Diocese. Give us grace that we, walking in the footsteps of your Son, and being filled and strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may serve you and your Church as faithful stewards in the ministry to which we are called and, by our example, enable others to know and love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*



**Life is like a camera ...  
*Focus* on what's important,  
*Capture* the good times,  
*Develop* from the negatives,  
and if things don't workout,  
**Take another shot.****

*Lay Readers' Association Executive  
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# Fall Conference

## With the Eyes of your Heart: Knowing when to say “yes” and when to say “no”

Offering your best for God’s Kingdom requires ongoing discovery and discernment:

- ◆ discovery of who you are and who you are becoming
- ◆ discernment of daily movement to and from the heart of God

This year’s Lay Readers’ Weekend will be an opportunity to look at how you are uniquely gifted and called. There will be time and space to learn and practice tested ways of discernment and materials to take home to continue your vocational journey.

**Topic Facilitator:** The Reverend Lynn Uzans

Since retirement as Rector of St James Church, Kentville, Rev Lynn has been offering spiritual direction to individuals and has been helping parishes discern ministry focus.

She is an active member of the Diocesan Healthy Congregations Strategy and Support Team . She is a wife, mother, avid quilter and reader.



## Fall Conference Registration and Accommodation Form

**Date:** October 25—27, 2013  
[Friday—Sunday]  
**Start Time:** 7:00pm [Friday]  
**End Time:** After lunch [Sunday]

**Registration/Accommodation:**

\$25/day Registration only—no accommodation  
\$100 Single Room & registration  
\$80 Double Room Occupancy & registration

**Location:** Bethany Centre  
45 Bay Street  
Antigonish, NS

**Emergency phone #: 902-863-4726**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to: **Diocesan Lay Readers' Association**

Mail your registration form & cheque to: Wayne Hamlin  
28 Overlook Dr.  
Kentville, NS B2N 2P4



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Please mail your changes to: The Editor, C/o I Beck's Way, Dartmouth, NS B2V 2G3