



“Times of wonder and awe. We have to know how to make these moments last, savour them and let them deepen us and our unity, and renew our hearts.” Jean Vanier

In our community we really take time to walk through Advent towards Christmas. We light the Advent candles one a week for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We move the baby Jesus a little bit closer to the manger each week so that on Christmas Eve, he is safe and warm with Mary and Joseph. The Christmas season teaches us that there is a gift in the waiting, that it is not just the destination to be enjoyed. The journey can be a treasure as well.

Not all things, however, are fun to wait for. It seems like in community we are always waiting for something; waiting for the new assistant to arrive, waiting for our turn to choose what we will watch on TV, waiting for the washer cycle to end so we can put our load in, waiting for the bus to take us to work, waiting for our patience to grow. These are just some of the many day-to-day things we wait for.

On a different level, we wait for assistants to stay and not leave, for someone’s health concerns to be healed, for everything to go as planned. In the waiting we are often reminded of the need to step back and look at the bigger picture. As a relatively new community, these times of reflection are necessary to help us understand that God is with us in the busy times and that as a community, we are where we are supposed to be.



We know that somehow we have to make peace with our imperfections as individuals and as a community. So we focus, again and again, on the present. **We spend time together.** Those four words speak volumes and are at the heart of our community life.

So as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let’s promise that we will spend time together with family and friends. How about while we are planning on visiting all of the people we want to see and doing the things we want to do, we set aside some time for ourselves. What better gift than to light a candle in quiet contemplation, creating a space for Jesus, and to rejoice and be glad.

Kelly Geddes, Community Leader

The **Friends of L’Arche** and **L’Arche Halifax** invite you to join them for fellowship and fun.

Where: St. Agnes Church Hall
Time: 1:30 pm
Dates: January 12, 2014
February 9, 2014
March 9, 2014

L’ARCHE HALIFAX BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Brian Hebert - Chair
- Carol Evans - Vice-Chair
- Sarah Rahr - Secretary
- Andrew Howatt - Treasurer
- Nancy Gilbert - Past-Chair
- Nabiha Atallah
- Barb Campbell
- Rev. Dianne Parker
- Barry Shea
- Kate Brown
- John Yogis
- Mike McCarther

BOARD NEWS

In this season of Advent, L'Arche prepares for new beginnings in many ways. Our board embraces this spirit as we welcome two new members to join us on our journey. **Welcome John and Mike!**

John Yogis is the longest serving member of the Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University. He is an innovative teacher who has inspired generations of law students; including federal and provincial cabinet members and judges, as well as leaders in the legal, academic and corporate worlds. Many have had a major impact on the national and international scene and in their respective communities.

John takes great pride in the accomplishments of all his students. He has been a particular champion, however, of those who have been subjected to discrimination for reasons such as race, disability, social background, etc. His teaching in specific equality oriented programs (such as those designed for Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq Nova Scotians), his writing on the law dealing with social issues, and his service on boards and committees all reflect a deep concern for his commitment to social change.

John has also been a public servant, in the broadest sense, to the greater Nova Scotia community, having chaired Boards of Inquiry for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and serving as a member of the Nova Scotia Law Reform Advisory Committee. He has also been a Director of the Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation, and is a founding member of the Board of Opera East.



John has known of L'Arche for many years, his good friends Jack and Judy O'Donnell kept him up to date on our progress. With a background in helping those who are marginalized John accepted the opportunity to assist the Halifax community at the board level.

John's extra-curricular interests include politics and current affairs. He is a devotee and supporter of the arts in its many forms and is an avid art collector. John is a fan of mystery novels and his principal outdoor activity is his daily walks with Maggie, a slightly rambunctious Labrador retriever. John and his long-time partner Darrell live in Halifax.

Mike McCarther is an account manager for Vista Care Communications. He enjoys his work; the traveling, getting to meet new people and learning new skills. His passion, however, is working with persons who are intellectually challenged. Starting in grade ten, Mike befriended a special needs student, Stan Gilbert, and so began his commitment to make inclusion not just a word but also a reality.

Mike organized the first inclusive high school conference in cooperation with the NS Secondary School Students Association. Students who were often ostracized had the opportunity to participate in a weekend of skill building and fun, this in turn translated into more acceptance at school. The conference is still an integral part of school life today.

Mike then signed up to help with Special Olympics, where he has coached speed skating, track, floor hockey, swimming and golf. He has held a variety of other roles in the organization; Regional Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Chef de Mission for the summer and winter provincial games and will be going to nationals in 2014 as Team Manager for the NS contingent. Mike was recently named to the Special Olympics Provincial Leaders Council.



Mike has volunteered with our Major Gifts campaign and golf tournament. He sees L'Arche as providing a life-long commitment to those who call L'Arche home and he wanted to further his partnership with us by joining the Board.

Mike lives in Hammonds Plains and in his spare time he enjoys coaching minor hockey and soccer, boating, snowboarding and traveling.

MAJOR FUND RAISER FOR THE YEAR – ANNUAL L'ARCHE HALIFAX GOLF TOURNAMENT

We have just had the 5th Annual L'Arche Halifax Golf Tournament at Sherwood Golf and Country Club. On behalf of the Golf Tournament Committee I want to thank each and every one of those who participated. A special thanks to Richard Homburg for donating the golf club to L'Arche Halifax. Whether you sponsored a team, a hole, played a round of golf or donated something for the auction, you contributed in a big way. It turned out to be a day of cold and rain with only two teams completing the round. That did not matter, however, as most stayed for the buffet supper, team prizes and silent auction. The final numbers are not in yet, but you raised between \$35,000 and \$40,000! Thank you all!

The purpose of fundraising through the Annual Golf Tournament is to provide opportunities for the core members at L'Arche Halifax to participate fully in community life as well as L'Arche events at the regional, national and international levels.



L'Arche in Canada has nearly 200 homes and workshops or day programs. These are grouped into what L'Arche calls "communities." There are 27 communities of L'Arche located across Canada from Cape Breton to Vancouver and 2 projects that soon hope to become communities. Currently we have a duplex in the Halifax Regional Municipality which is home for our eight core members who share their day to day lives with assistants, most of whom choose to live there as well. L'Arche believes that every person is blessed with important gifts to offer others and that we are called to help create a society in which each one's gifts can be given and recognized.

I hope to see you all next year.

Blessings,

David Banks, Chair of the Golf Tournament
Committee

The next L'Arche Halifax Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014. Please keep us in mind during the upcoming year as we are always looking for golfers, sponsors for teams or holes, items for the auction and prizes for the teams.

L'ARCHE HALIFAX CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2013

Dear Friends,

In January we will be celebrating our 4th Anniversary. We are at a place in our journey together where we are going deeper into what it means to be a L'Arche community. We feel called to be a community of peace, that our homes be places of peace and that we will be people of peace.

It is so inspiring to sit in a circle in our living room talking about what it means to be peace makers and how it is not always easy, yet we believe it is what God is calling us to be. We believe that when we gather and talk about our homes being places of peace, this makes the world a better place and makes God happy. We hope it makes you happy too. We think of you often, of the people who believe in our mission and support us to live this life together. We are truly blessed. If you are able, please consider making a donation to L'Arche Halifax. We also appreciate your continued prayers.



Thank you and Merry Christmas from all of us at L'Arche Halifax!

Kelly Geddes,
Community Leader

Brian Hebert,
Board Chair

You may donate financially to L'Arche Halifax by:

1. Mail a cheque to L'Arche Halifax, 5512 Sullivan Street, Halifax, NS B3K 1X7
2. Credit card - Phone (902) 407-5512 and provide the following Information: Type of card, card number, expiry date, name on card **or** by completing the following and return it to the above address: Type of card: _____ Card Number: _____
Expiry date: _____ Name on Card: _____
3. Through CanadaHelps.org – Go to website: www.canadahelps.org, search for charity and complete online information
4. United Way – Pledge through United Way and request your pledge be allocated to L'Arche Halifax
5. Monthly Giving – call Office at (902) 407-5512
6. Leave a Legacy – call Office at (902) 407-5512

Thank you for your generous support!

PLEASE KEEP US UP-TO-DATE!

Please inform us if your information changes
by contacting us at
email: office@larchehalifax.org
or
telephone: (902) 407-5512