



THE BEACON

Greetings from your Moderator

The Beacon

Is a publication of the East Coast Baptist association in Canada, serving New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island NFLD & Labrador and far eastern Quebec

Our Mission:

Churches partnering together to start and strengthen churches and take the gospel to all people on Canada's east coast.



Our Vision:

To see God transform lives in healthy, cooperating, and reproducing churches for every language group and within each community on Canada's east coast.

A partner, "on mission" with the Canadian National Baptist Convention

Welcome to the "Beacon" the East Coast Baptist Association quarterly newsletter. My thanks to Sharon Gautreau – the Editor for her gift of service. As an association of churches, the word "associated" is only true if we know something about each other and from the relationships which develop as we labour side by side towards a common goal. It is my hope this letter and those which follow will be tools to link us together with information and stories allowing this bond of fellowship to develop more fully. My name is Charlie Wright and it is my pleasure to serve as the newly appointed moderator of the ECBA.

The ECBA is now going into its sixth year as an associational body. The leadership team is committed to providing meaningful service to the membership of all the churches in our association. Since our inception we have modelled ourselves in the pattern of the National organization the CNBC with services in the following areas:

- **CNBC Representation:**
We organize events on behalf of the Canadian National Baptist Convention. They find it Useful to work through us for periodic training and informational events where intra Church dialogue and participation are beneficial.
- **Church Starting**—Hugh Morrison—Pastor Margaree Valley
- **Church Strengthening**—Jack Gautreau –Pastor Providence, Riverview
These roles mirror main focus activities of the CNBC. Both Hugh and Jack keep Informed of programs / training / support being developed nationally in order for us to distribute or initiate similar activities in our region.
- **Mission Team Coordination** - Jim Tranquilla - Hope Community, Mactaquac
Jim has been appointed as our liaison with the North and South Carolina Conventions to coordinate missions between them and us. He is also developing relationships with the New England Convention. Through this work we have an exciting opportunity to be recipients of mission teams (please make needs know to him—jmt@warpnet.ca) and also to serve as missionaries by forming (ECBA) teams "to go out into the world."
- **The ECBA leadership team is rounded out by:**
 - Pierre Chaisson - Outreach Pastor at Margaree Valley as Vice Moderator
 - Michael Thomson - Providence, Riverview who as Past Moderator brings continuity to the group serving also as Chair of our Nominations Committee
 - John Merks as our Registrar who works with the various Provincial authorities for accreditation

We want to assure you all the leadership team recognizes the value in associational life, to mentor, support, pray for and learn from each other. We pray the association will be effective in its mission which is:

*Through the life of Christ and in cooperation with **the Convention**, the purpose of **the Association** shall be to partner with local churches in offering concerted prayer and specialized services to help in the areas of: starting and creating innovative churches, evangelism projects, missions strategy and strengthening existing churches by providing mutual support, pastoral 'health', leadership and technology access (taken from the ECBA Constitution).*

In order to fulfill our mission, **we need your help.** We need your ideas on what we could be doing for greatest impact. We also need someone willing to become a contact person (reporter) from each church family. We want stories and news from your church. What a great opportunity for ministry in linking our ECBA family together! Sharon's e-mail address is sharon55@nb.sympatico.ca. She would be delighted to hear from you.

Introducing: Charlie Wright (Moderator)

My wife Norma and I moved to New Brunswick from Toronto in 2001. I had retired from the Royal Bank after 37 years and this move was a return to our roots. As an only child I wanted to be near aging parents and Norma, the eldest of nine had several more reasons for our move!

For just over 20 years, we had the pleasure of serving as presenters for Canadian Anglican Marriage Encounter, an evangelical weekend experience to help couples build on their own strength by adding God's strength to the fabric of their lives. For two of those years we served as the National Lay Couple for the organization providing leadership to a group of volunteers whose mission was to serve in the ministry of "making good marriages great". Our weekend experience was a door-way through which we re-discovered Christ.

Equally significant was our awakening to His desire for us as to be a light of His love in the world. We decided there was no better way to serve than to do so in the

garden in which we were nurtured. This ministry, combined with service in our local church as wardens, treasurer and work on various committees / community projects meant the church became our family. Church for us was "life lived abundantly" with the family of God.

When we moved to New Brunswick we were a little surprised to find the "bible belt" we remembered from our childhood was only a shadow of what it once was. Sadly, our early experience of church after our move seemed not to have the same element of abundant life which had contributed so greatly to our growth as Christians.

Our home church - Hope Community was born from a desire to make our church experience one which allowed us to live life abundantly. We held a desire for "new testament" living where people could meet people willing to be friends. Together we could **inspire each other, encourage each other and grow** in our knowledge of Christ and how to live in His will.

As I look ahead to my term as moderator, I'm praying God's hand in strengthening our churches; that indeed each one may become a true family of God – dedicated to "abundant living" and growing in His will. I hope to hear from you cagney@nb.sympatico.ca with any ideas you may have on how we can be an encouragement to one another. Meanwhile, may God Bless each one as you seek to serve in your church and your community.



Who Am I? I'm a child of God, who enjoys doing things with "my bride" of 43 years. I and we enjoy serving His people and delight in both youth and seniors ministry. We enjoy the outdoors including skiing, golf and daily walks with our cairn terrier "Teagan" – which means "beautiful" in Scottish.

A Word from the Editor

Hi my name is Sharon Gautreau and I have been asked by the ECBA to continue the newsletter that Mark Puckett had started several years ago.

My desire is that this newsletter will draw each of our churches closer together so that we can become a family of churches sharing each others journey with Christ.

In order to accomplish this I need your help in contributing articles to the newsletter. So we can become part of a great community of churches who seek to hold each other up before the throne of grace and to encourage one another each day. May we all come together and rejoice over the things that our great God is doing in each church of the ECBA.

If you have special activities that are happening in your area please feel free to send me the info and I will gladly put this in the newsletter. My email address is:

sharon55@nb.sympatico.ca

The Beacon will be published 6 times a year and will be distributed via e-mail to each church with the hope that one individual from each church would take the responsibility of distributing it to their members.

Excited to see our association of churches grow together in love and fellowship.

Sharon Gautreau



Atlantic Canada Coordinator

Jim Tranquilla

Happy New Year from your Atlantic Canada Partnership Coordinator, and welcome to the resurrected Beacon!

As we let 2010 fade into the past and set our sights on what is in store in 2011, we cannot help but be challenged by all of the opportunities before us. There's so much to do! I got my Daytimer refill today, and that was a sobering reminder that it's time to start planning the year, or at least intentionally making room for the things that are most important. Unless I set those priorities, the time will be stolen away and something important will go undone, or maybe it won't be done as well as it should have ... just for lack of intentional preparations.

I hope that you are already making a place for a mission project in your church planning for 2011. There are teams of teens and adults ready to come to your church to help out with almost anything you can think of! All you have to do is ask ... and PLAN to make it a successful part of your church life this year.

Now for the stretch! How about being part of a mission team to go on a project this summer?

I'd like to gather a team of workers from our ECBA churches and see what door the Lord could open for us. There are opportunities within easy reach of the Maritimes. If you've never done anything like that before, you're in for the blessing of a lifetime, and it may just be the opening you're looking for to discover the next part of God's plan for your life. Please give it a moment's thought, then pray about it, then start planning. It CAN happen and you can be a part of something that will make a difference in the Kingdom of God.

I'm ready to do whatever I can to help you with a Mission Team Request application and you'll be hearing further on the Mission Team plans. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Blessings for 2011

Jim Tranquilla
CNBC Regional Partnership
Coordinator
Atlantic Canada

ECBA STRENGTHNING

Jack Gautreau

From the text of Galatians 3:28, "You are all one in Christ Jesus", John Fawcett penned the beautiful hymn "Blest Be The Tie that Binds". In the third stanza we read of how Churches in Christ strengthen one another- "*We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*"

These words have profound significance and purpose for the Church Strengthening Team of the East Coast Baptist Association. We are a team of men and women from all different walks of life who share a common passion to see churches and leaders enjoy the journey with Christ and finish well. Our team is made up of Wallace Jorden(P.E.I.), Reg Lewis (N.S.), Kelly Holt(N.S.) and Jack & Sharon Gautreau(N.B.)

We have a deep desire to serve the local church and its leadership and help them fulfill the mission God has for them in their setting. Your E.C.B.A. Church Strengthening Team exists not only to encourage and strengthen your pastors, church planters or lay leaders but also to encourage you as churches to strengthen one another to become Christ-focused, kingdom-minded churches.

On Jan 21 -22, 2011, our Church Strengthening team will be meeting in Halifax to discuss and plan our goals for 2011. We covet your prayers as we seek the Lord's guidance on how we as a team can be effective in fulfilling our mission to our E.C.B.A. Atlantic Canada Churches.

In Christ,

Jack Gautreau



Our East Coast churches were blessed at our Annual General Meeting in

Pugwash by the attendance of Jeff Christopherson – Ministry Leader for the CNBC Church Start Team and Kathy Morales - Leader of Women's Ministries for the CNBC Church Strengthening Team. We also enjoyed a presentation on "Effective Disciple Making" by Art Groomes from Lifeway Church Resources.

All in all, we experienced;

- some business, most notably the ratification of our Constitution presented in 2009 and voted on this year and the appointment of officers for the coming year(s);
- some learning, in addition to the informative and useful material presented by Art, Jeff challenged us to think of the people we know and what kind of church would appeal to them. How can we become "Kingdom Expanders where people will be drawn by what they see in us.

The ladies were blessed by teaching and fellowship led by Kathy Morales, and a special time was set aside for the Pastor's wives where Kathy shared 8 keys she learned as a pastor's wife.

- some pleasure – Camp Pagweak provided a relaxing and picturesque coastal setting for our free time;
- and some plain old fun as adults and kids enjoyed being kids – just look at the pictures.

We hope you will join us at next year's AGM during the fall of 2011. Planning is already underway and will be posted in our next newsletter. Stay tuned.



Shown here are Kathy Morales and Jeff Christopherson receiving gifts from the association



Just some of the activities the children enjoyed during their time at the camp.

