

# PMEJ NEWSLETTER

## Partners in Mission and EcoJustice

## Keeping in Touch

### In this issue -

- Moving Mountains:  
Housing for all in an  
unaffordable market
- PJ's Sticky Wall
- Message from Florence
- Re-embedding the  
Global Economy
- Sue's Ginger Cookies
- Photos by  
Jennifer Weiss

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## Letter to Members

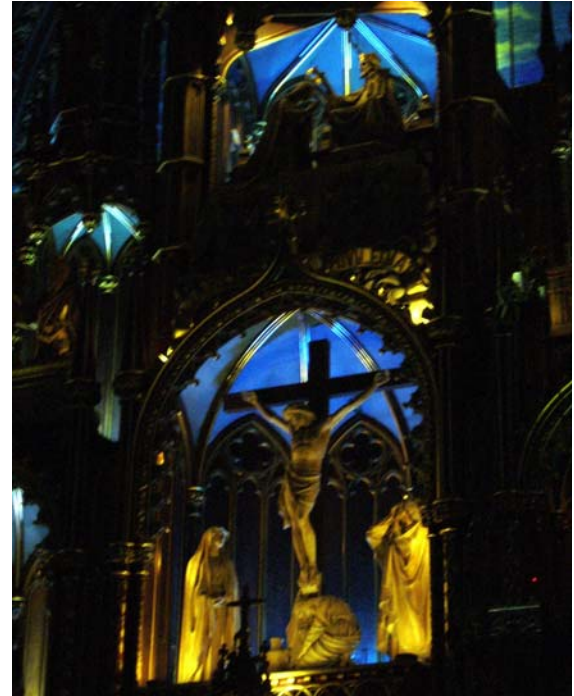
Dear Friends,

I hope that this busy preparation time of Advent finds you well and enjoying the blessings of this season.

Some of you have sent me items for a newsletter. Many others have promised to send something later. I suggest that you might forward items at any time of year, and when I have gathered a small collection, I will turn them into a newsletter, if that would be helpful!

Most of you have participated in at least one conference call, and our faithful staff have recorded minutes and sent them out. Thank you to each one of these caring people! This is the beginning of a year in which we will need to work hard at holding together as a committee, and staying in touch even when we are unable to meet face to face. This is why I envision a newsletter, just little messages to one another, from time to time. Don't try to write great epistles....just greetings will do!

At this time our country and our world are in turmoil. Our Federal leadership is floundering, our economy is in a shaky state, terrorist acts in Mumbai have shaken many of us who have friends and colleagues who travel to cities around the world, a cholera epidemic in Zimbabwe has added to an already overwhelming burden of hunger, disease and homelessness in that country, and so many other stories fill our news, of people in exile, detention, desperate situations. Yet God's message to us, and to all people, in Isaiah, is one of comfort and hope, and love. We are asked to carry this message to others. This is the work we are called to do. This is the work you are busy doing wherever you are.



*Notre Dame Basilica of Montreal*

I spend a lot of time in a seniors' home. When I visit the rooms, I see portraits of nurses, lawyers, families gathered in earlier times, and I am aware that these individuals have survived many years of hard work, life's struggles and courageous accomplishments. They form a deeply spiritual community who has known a loving God in their lives. I am always comforted when I am with them.

When I am not in seniors' homes, I am in schools, or in meetings of the Diocese, or cooking chili for our Christmas Fair luncheon, or visiting grandchildren, or planning a retreat for lay readers.....or on a conference call with PMEJ members. Maybe each one of us could share some personal activities in our next newsletter!

Wishing you a Christmas filled with unexpected blessings,

**Sue Winn**



## Moving Mountains:

### Housing for all in an unaffordable market

On a Saturday afternoon in October, a group of nearly fifty people came together to learn how they could move a mountain!

- Some of them had just begun to think about that mountain and its effect on their community.
- Others had been aware of the mountain for a while, but were overwhelmed at the enormity of it.
- Most of them didn't know each other, and were from MANY different faith communities
- A few leaders had experience with moving fairly large rocks, and were there to share their knowledge.



By the end of the afternoon, here is what some of the participants had to say:

*"The personal story of the young woman who turned her life around thanks to finding safe supportive housing was very moving..."*

*"I enjoyed hearing about possibilities to move forward with bricks & mortar, and seeing the willingness of various faith groups to collaborate on an issue mutually identified as important."*

*"It was inspiring to see so many groups represented, hear a broad range of ways we can begin to take steps, and see the longer-term commitment and leadership in this group."*

*"... after my sermon on Sunday, some members wondered what they could contribute financially...."*

*"We would like to see Faith in Action help us focus on some concrete ideas and **political pressure-points** to work on together: i.e., specific actions that we could all work on."*

And so, what will happen next?

Will that mountain stand there, unmoved, with just a few pebbles dislodged?

OR

Will we begin to work together, with God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine? Who knows what the outcome could be!

To be invited to the next workshop, or to request an information session for your own parish, please contact Peggy Wilmot at [pwilmot@shaw.ca](mailto:pwilmot@shaw.ca) or 250-592-2320.

**Peggy Wilmot**

## PJ's Sticky Wall

### Key Ideas that Emerged from the Sticky Wall

In October, P.J. Hobbs helped us to identify 5 priorities to focus our work:

1. Indigenous justice
2. Dynamic communication
3. Relationships with partners of every kind
4. Staff and Committee roles and responsibilities
5. The vision, first principles and foundational values of our work

We decided to form 3 working groups relating to our 3 program areas:

- a) Global Relations
- b) Mission Personnel and Mission Education
- c) Ecojustice (including Indigenous justice)

We also formed 3 functional groups relating to the committee's ways of working:

- a) Communications
- b) Vision, Theology and Worship
- c) Oversight

Members have been invited to serve on two groups, one program group and one functional group. All our work will be seen through the lens of our five priorities.



*Nicholas Pang and Bishop Barry Clarke, Bishop of Montreal Reporting on their Lambeth experiences.*

## A Message from Florence

Hi Staff and Co-chairs and members of PMEJ,

I was so conscious of the time during my reflection moment at the meeting that I was not able to say something that was on my mind. That is, in order to show our sincerity and to set an example in our participation in the achievement of the MDG's, the Five Marks of Mission and the mandate of the committee, I am proposing the following:

- Every time our committee meets we will collect a minimum of 5 dollars (others may give more) from every member, to be donated at the end of the Triennium to any program or partner agency of Anglican Church of Canada that the committee may decide. It will be a committee donation as we continue to work through our mandate and participate in the MDG's and the Five Marks of Mission plus 1. This may be a little sacrifice, and a small amount but big things started from small beginnings.
- This action of the committee will be reported to General Synod with the hope that it will inspire other committees to do the same. Just imagine the chain effect of it. In this way we will be personally giving a part of our selves.

If the above proposal will not work, then maybe every meeting we will sacrifice one meal by fasting or personally paying for our meal. This will cut the cost of expenses and at the same time we will be in solidarity with those who have nothing to eat. And, by the way, fasting is both helpful to our health conditions and it is biblical!

This proposal comes with good intentions, hoping that it will help.

**Florence Ayban**



**New Internationalist Magazine**  
<http://www.newint.org>

<http://www.justicecamp.ca>

*Dear Justice Camp Friends*

*Great news; the next JUSTICE CAMP is now announced. Please circulate this web address and invite folks to contact me a.s.a.p. for any more information. Participants must be at least eighteen years old. The experience is simply, amazing.*

*Ken Gray*





## **Re-embedding the Global Economy**

Another Moral Economy Column

By **Christopher Lind**

November 2008

<http://www.christopherlind.ca>

Are you surviving the biggest economic crisis in 75 years? Most of us have been watching it unfold from a distance. First it was Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns, AIG, HBOS, Fortis Bank, and now it's Iceland, Hungary, Ukraine and Belarus. If these events haven't yet affected you directly, they will.

If you are a farmer you may find that declining oil prices have reduced the demand for ethanol and lowered the price of corn. The prices of other crops will also fall as speculators unwind their positions. In western Canada, oil and gas exploration will be reduced meaning fewer off farm jobs in the wintertime. As consumers delay discretionary purchases, manufacturing output will fall leading to rising unemployment. Housing prices will fall and jobs will be lost in construction. If you work in the university sector (as I do) you will be faced with hiring freezes as have already been announced by universities in Miami, Boston, New York and Waterloo. If you are a small business owner and you finance your inventory with a line of credit, you may find your bank reluctant to keep lending. Any institution with significant endowment funds, like charities, schools and hospitals will be faced with reduced revenue and foundations will have less money to grant.

Some of these effects are typical characteristics of a recession and so some people interpret this as just another turn of the business cycle. However, normal recessionary cycles respond to falling interest rates and fiscal stimulus by governments. This phenomenon is not responding to such stimulus and the American Federal Reserve Board has reduced interest rates almost to zero. What's really happening and what can we do about it?

An alternative explanation is that we're in the middle of a global crash. The roots of the crisis are in the global financial sector and the crash is the direct result of the globalization of that sector. In this process of financial globalization, national financial markets have been linked to form a single global market for credit, debt and currency. This global market has become either unregulated or insufficiently regulated because the corporations that dominate this market are larger than the national governments that used to regulate them and we have not yet invented the new global institutions that will be required to regulate this new market. For example, Iceland has had to be rescued by the International Monetary Fund after its largest banks failed. The largest Icelandic bank had assets 6 times larger than the GDP of the whole country. Could Switzerland rescue UBS, which has assets 484% larger than that country's GDP? Credit Suisse is 290% larger than its home country's GDP as is ING in relation to the Netherlands. Three of the five largest banks in the world are headquartered in the UK (RBS, HSBC and Barclays). Britain has already rescued RBS. Can it afford to rescue the other two without help?

In my last column I quoted the work of the Hungarian economic historian, Karl Polanyi, whose name is now popping up all over. In Polanyi's most famous book, *The Great Transformation*, he described how the Industrial Revolution caused economic forces to become dis-embedded from feudal society. These forces now operate in their own sphere called the economy. The relationship between the economy and society was reversed and instead of society determining the nature of economic relationships, the economy began determining the nature of social relationships. Society was refashioned in the image of the economy and we inherited a market society governed by a market system. This revolution was traumatic because it threatened humanity. The Great Transformation of his book title was humanity's response of self-protection. In order to survive we had to invent new institutions like trade unions, pension plans, and unemployment insurance. We even invented the modern nation state so that the boundaries of political regulation would correspond more closely to the boundaries of economic activity.

## **Re-embedding the Global Economy**

Another Moral Economy Column

By **Christopher Lind**

(continued from page 5)

Today, we are living through the same kind of upheaval. The corporate agents of the national financial sectors of our economies have become dis-embedded from the regulatory frameworks of the nation state. They now exist in a new space called the globalized economy. This space is now so threatening to human society that even as prominent a champion of free market capitalism as George W. Bush is prepared to nationalize portions of the U.S. banking sector to prevent further destruction.

When economic forces are becoming disembedded from the restraints of the old society, there emerge champions of deregulation - "let the market decide!", they cry. In the late 18th century it was Adam Smith who was arguing that if everyone was simply left to pursue their own self-interest, these actions would be guided to achieve the common good of wealth creation as if by "an invisible hand".

The social upheavals associated with the rule of the invisible hand included market induced famines, periodic shocks of industrial unemployment, dramatic increases in the gap between rich and poor, homelessness and waves of human migration as landless farmers sought to escape their poverty traps.

In the late 20th century, at the time of the globalization revolution, it was Milton Friedman who was arguing that markets freed from regulation were a precondition to human freedom in a modern society. We are currently living through the same social upheavals as before, following once more on the implementation of policies of market deregulation. Unsurprisingly, conservative think tanks like Canada's Fraser Institute and America's Heritage Foundation have been celebrating Iceland as one of the freest countries of the world. The deregulation of Iceland's financial sector was engineered by disciples of Milton Friedman, like Davíð Oddsson the Prime Minister from 1991 - 2004.

The solution to the chaos caused by dis-embedded markets is obviously the re-embedding of those markets in new systems of political regulation. That's one of the ways an economy becomes a moral economy. The other way is by making society more just. An economy dis-embedded from society is an amoral economy because an economy left to itself has no conscience. An economy embedded in an unjust society is an immoral economy. Society supplies the conscience but in this case it is a bad conscience.

Where might those new systems of just political regulation come from? As I write this, leaders of the 20 largest national economies are preparing to meet in Washington at a global summit to plan a response to the global financial crisis. What's symbolically significant about this meeting is that it is no longer sufficient for the leaders of the seven largest national economies (the G7) to meet, consider and decide for the world, as they have done so often in the past. It is neither politically, nor economically feasible to make decisions about world trade without China, India and Brazil being at the table - and they will not be silent. Some commentators call this meeting the new Bretton Woods, recalling the meeting in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in 1944 when representatives of the Allied nations met to establish the institutions and rules required to re-establish world trade after the cessation of World War II. These expectations are too grand for this meeting but the hope is exactly correct. It may be that this meeting will set the wheels in motion and we may, in time, look back on it as the start of a new Great Transformation.

As for Canada, two ways we can respond to the crash and make our society more just at the same time is by strengthening our welfare system and making major investments in social housing. Increasing transfer payments to the poor will address social inequality and boost consumer demand for economic staples. Investing in social housing will boost employment in the construction sector and help make poverty history.

## Sue's Ginger Cookies

At the meeting in Montreal in October 2008, several people asked for the recipe for the ginger cookies we had during tea breaks. They are a family favourite at Christmas time, but are good any time of year!

### Directions

Cream shortening, add sugar, then the rest of the ingredients. Form into balls, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter. Roll balls in sugar and press flat on a greased cookie sheet. (I use the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar and give 6 or 7 good thumps.)

Bake 350 degrees. 10 minutes.

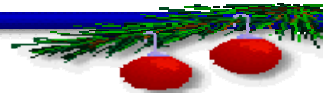
Store in an airtight container.

Makes about 4 dozen.



### Ingredients

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup shortening  
(not butter)  
1 cup white sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup molasses  
2 cups flour  
1 egg, beaten  
1 tsp. ginger  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. ground  
cloves  
2 tsps. soda  
pinch of salt



For more information, please visit:  
<http://www2.anglican.ca/about/committees/pmej.htm>