



Atlantic School of Theology  
presents...

# Life Together

AST's Graduate Seminar Research

March 10<sup>th</sup> and  
11<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The public are invited to attend a series of presentations by graduating students in the Master of Divinity program at AST. Students will present original field-based research on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> in the King's Room of the AST Library, located at 624 Francklyn Street, Halifax. Presentations are free and all are welcome.

## Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

### 9.30 am **What Characteristics of the Eucharistic Liturgy Make it Meaningful for Parishioners?**

Researcher: Helen Ryding

"That was a lovely service." Have you ever said that or heard someone say it as you left worship? What exactly does it mean? This research investigated the characteristics of the Eucharistic Liturgy that makes it meaningful or disappointing for participants. Will you agree with those interviewed or will you have find other aspects of the Eucharist meaningful?

### 10.45 am **Treasures Both New and Old**

Researcher: Kevin Frankland

Despite the Reformation ideal of giving the Scriptures back to the people, for many, the Bible remains a mystery. In this study, lay-people explore and discuss methods of biblical interpretation and the Bible's application in their daily lives as we 'listen in' to their Bible study on the Parables of Jesus.

### 1.30 pm **Beyond the Myth of the Disengaged Male: Men's Experience in the Church**

Researcher: Alex Mosher

Laymen in 'mainline' churches rarely speak about matters of church life and faith, raising the question, "What do men really value in their churches and in their spiritual lives?" In this study, men reveal their commitments, challenges, hopes, and fears for their churches, their families, and for themselves.

### 2.25 pm **Stress and Sandwiches**

Researcher: Galen Smith

The 'sandwich generation' identifies adults caught in the middle of life's pressure when their aging parents need support and their grown children return home. Discussions with families living this dynamic explore the stresses they cope with and offer advice to the church for supporting families in the midst of these transitions.

### 3.20 pm **Isolation and Single Women in Ministry**

Researcher: Kim Waite

Recent studies in the United Church of Canada have named 'isolation' as a factor to be faced by people serving in ordered ministry. How do single women in ministry experience isolation in their contexts? This study takes an in depth look at the experiences of two single ordained female clergy in the United Church in light of the wider discussion of this theme.

## Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup>

### 9.30 am **"How Shall we Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land?"**

Researcher: Nicholas Hatt

In the 1890s Orthodox Christians from Lebanon began arriving in North America, fleeing persecution. Explore how one Antiochian Orthodox community found a spiritual home within the life of an Anglican parish in the Maritimes, and has lived and worshipped there for over a century.

### 10.45 am **When God Comes Knocking: The Ecumenical Venture of Sharing Worship Space**

Researcher: Kelly Burke

Edgewood Oxford United Church has opened its doors to an Ethiopian Orthodox community seeking a place to worship. Come and explore the theology, ecumenical dynamics, and imaginative possibilities of life together in the wonderful story of these two Christian communities sharing holy space in Halifax.

### 1.30 pm **Amalgamation: Yes or No?**

Researcher: Carolyn Rushton

Churches in small communities often confront the possibility of joining together in response to changes around them. Drawing on insights from two pastoral charges faced with a decision whether or not to amalgamate, this research examines significant factors in their discussions. The findings explore what led to two very different decisions, comparing Maritime experience with analysis from the North American scene.

### 2.30 pm **"Please Stand or Sit For the Gospel..."**

Researcher: Matt Fillier

This study explores worship in an ecumenical "shared" ministry which draws together two churches from different denominations. How does sharing worship shape and challenge the faithful in the pews. Journey with a church in New Brunswick as they encounter the possibilities of life together in worship.