



# Trinity Topics

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, OTTAWA

[www.trinityunitedottawa.ca](http://www.trinityunitedottawa.ca)

*We are an open-minded, inclusive and progressive community, exploring spirituality together*

## Erin's Front Page

**S**EPTEMBER ALWAYS SEEMS like the beginning of the year. The church year may start in Advent, and the calendar year in January, but the program year certainly starts now. As the days begin to shorten, I get the urge for new pens and neatly labeled binders.

This September is no different. Fall cleaning and organizing seem the flavour of the past few weeks. And while I don't need new pens and binders this year, I have been setting up some metaphorical binders for our next few months at Trinity.

If there were binders on my desk, they would be labeled **Creation and Cooperation, Gratitude and Generosity, Rest and Resistance**. These themes will guide our Worship and Christian Development for the next few months, and I hope will trickle into all we do as a congregation.

We begin the fall with the **Season of Creation**, and create our own plans and projects for the church year. CIS continues their important work on the topic of **Climate Justice**, which lines up well with our exploration of what and how we learn from creation. Meanwhile, I hope to find ways to bring our committees together for some unified projects. A new discussion group is launching this fall, based on TED talks, as we create new opportunities for exploring our faith in a changing world.

We move into thanksgiving and **Stewardship**, understanding that the two are so deeply linked that we cannot have one without the other.

Our fall book study will be based on *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No in the Culture of Now* by Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. This book takes the perspective that Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society.



And we will move out of that into **Advent**.

We will be looking for some helpers for some of our projects and programs over the fall, and if you see yourself lining up with a piece here or there, or if you want to be involved but don't know where you best fit, please be in touch! I'm happy to have a cup of tea and a conversation to see where your gifts and skills might best be offered.

In many ways, autumn feels like a season of ending, as the summer wanes, the days grow shorter and the leaves change. But I hope you are feeling the excitement that this time of year offers us. We have a wonderful opportunity to continue to grow together as a congregation, sharing our ideas and inspirations, and sensing all the possibility and potential that is rich for us at this time. As the seasons change, I'm drawn again, to one of my favourite books, *The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr. And I want to share with you an excerpt.

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**From "O Antiphons for Autumn."**

O Season Full of Remembering,  
Come! Come with your golden shawl.  
Come scattering the beauty of well-  
aged leaves.

Strengthen us for changing our old  
patterns.

Give us memories that sustain our  
dreams.

O Come!

O Gleaner of Gardens and Fields,  
Come! Come gather what is most  
precious in us.

Urge us to embrace our cornucopia of  
goodness.

Stir up gratitude and a sense of  
wonder.

Move us to give freely of our abundant  
harvest.

O Come!

*Erin*



## What Next? Council News

By Ian MacKay

Co-chair, Trinity United Church Council

**O**N TUESDAY AUGUST 29, council gathered for our annual retreat. It is a time for fellowship, but also a chance for council members to be creative and think more broadly about the church's direction. We have accomplished much as a community: Momentum for Mission led us to define who we are and for what we stand, we became Affirming after discerning what that means to us, we have supported refugee families, and we formed a new relationship with Rev. Erin. We need to consider where we go from here as a community. We asked council members to consider the question of "Now what?!" and come with their enthusiastic ideas for the near and distant future. There were some themes that emerged through our discussions.

**Community building:** Can we do a better job of integrating the Sunday school programming with the messages hear upstairs? How can we get more people into our building, to realize what a great and unique community we have? Would it help to have a greater presence at events that are consistent with our Mission?

**Managing our resources:** Having an idea of how we want to use our building before we need to plan repairs, effective use of our finances but also our time and energy. How can we do it all??

**A common theme for the year:** If we could set a theme, this would give us a direction. The different committees could plan their activities with this theme in mind. This could be the way to move deeper, come together as community, to reach out to others in the world while maintaining our resources. This is a new way to approach our activities at Trinity, but the possibility of working together, toward a common goal is quite exciting.

### **TEDTalk Discussion Series**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Friendship Room**

**October 17: Gratitude and Generosity**

**November 21: Stewardship**

# W is for ... Worship

By Anthea Brandon

IT HAS BEEN a busy summer for the Worship Committee, but one that has left us with the satisfaction of seeing the leadership of weekly worship ably filled while the Reverend Erin Burns was away on professional development courses and a well-deserved vacation. Sheila Meggs and I, co-chairs of the committee, acting on suggestions made by Erin, were able to secure the services of some excellent leaders. **Colleen Lowrie** led the service ably on June 23. She delivered a powerful message, using the story of Hagar and Ishmael being cast out as the base, repeating that “the well was there all along.” **Patricia Power** led worship on both July 30 and August 27, giving a good message each time, especially on the latter occasion, which coincided with Ottawa's Pride parade. **Sharon Moon and Howard Clark**, both well known to the Trinity congregation, gave their encouraging, spirit-filled leadership on August 6. **Sandra Smith** completed the summer roster, leading worship on August 13 and 20.

Members of the Worship Committee were outstanding in their help in getting things—and people—in the right place at the right time. Many thanks to **Emily Taylor-King** and **Kathryn Fournier** for their contributions in the services. Especially for Emily's wonderful singing and Kathryn's inspiring reading. Many thanks also for **Sally Cuddy's** beautiful gathering prayer that she wrote for the August services. Also thanks for **Karen Sibbald's** ushering at some of these services. And I must also thank **Carolyn Whitley** for her musical contribution when James McGowan was unavailable to play. And of course many others helped: manning the A-V—thanks a lot, **Chris Humphrey!**—usher, operating the elevator, providing juice and cookies and more.

So we now are at the beginning of another Trinity year, with so much ahead of us as Erin retakes the helm of our beloved “ark.” With this new beginning, I must mention Karen Sibbald, who has done much over the past years as **Head Usher.**

## Sunday Mornings

**Celebration of Spirit** at 10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School and Nursery Care** at 10:00 a.m.  
**Coffee and Conversation**  
in the Friendship Room after the service  
**Joyful Noise!** children's choir practices  
downstairs at 11:00 a.m.

- September 24 **Creation:** River Sunday
- October 1 **World Communion Sunday**  
Communion in pews
- October 8 **Thanksgiving:** Living  
Thanksgiving in our daily lives
- October 15 **World Food Sunday**  
CIS lunch
- October 22 **Creativity:** L'arche visitors  
Erin Study Leave  
Gallery Show Opening
- October 29 **Remembering Lost Loved Ones**  
Soaking Prayer after the service  
Cantiamo Choir
- November 5 **Stewardship Sunday:** Inviting  
Generosity and Modelling Gratitude
- November 12 **Remembrance Day**
- November 19 **Trinity 101**  
Restorative Justice Week

However, she now feels that it is time to pass this important position to new hands. Sheila and I would like to express our great appreciation of Karen's work in this position which she has so faithfully and conscientiously performed. It is hoped that the new Head Usher, whoever he or she might be, will live up to the standard that Karen has set.

May the Spirit of creativity and love infuse our worship now and forever!

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# Children, Youth, Families

By Arlene Smith

**T**HE NEXT TIME *Trinity Topics* arrives in your Inbox or your hands the news for our children, youth and families will be written by **our new Congregational Designated Minister (CDM)**. Pending approval of Trinity Council, our newest staff member will be active in our church the beginning of next month.

Over the summer, Ken Graham, Colin Pachuluk and I were the members of the committee who conducted the search for our new CDM. We are excited to announce that we are in the final stages of preparing to welcome the new CDM to our Trinity staff team. Our candidate has an abundance of experience with children, church, youth and music, and is looking forward to working with Erin, James, Jen and Sara-Lynn to make sure that people of all ages enjoy meaningful and inspirational experiences every time they walk in our door.

While the search was happening, volunteers put transition plans in place. We had our Welcome Back Sunday led by Sheila Meggs and Chris Tessier on September 10, and Chris also arranged the schedule for the Sunday school teachers.

This fall we will continue to use *The Whole People of God* curriculum in Sunday school, but we will supplement this with a **Kindness Program** written by Lindsey Barr of World Changing Kids. The extra package gives us a chance to talk about kindness in daily life with the Sunday school kids.

If we don't have a **registration form** for the kids in your family, please fill one out and give it to me, or the new CDM. We look forward to introducing you on October 1!



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## Zambia 2018 Is A Go!

Plans are underway for another **Ottawa Presbytery young adult partnership visit to Zambia** in May of 2018. Young adult participants partner with the Chipembi Girls' School, the Basic School, the Medical Centre, the Agricultural College and the United Church of Zambia Chipembi congregation.

There are still one or two spots left, so if you know of young adults who may be interested in this partnership visit, please have them contact Hilary Merritt, the Youth and Young Adult minister for the Ottawa Presbytery, for an application or further information.

She can be reached at [hmerritt@uccanottawa.org](mailto:hmerritt@uccanottawa.org), or [613-790-6786](tel:613-790-6786). The longer the lead time, the more easily we can prepare hearts, minds and finances for this partnership experience. Significant bursaries are available

Young adults in their 30s are welcome to apply, but may not be eligible for the same bursaries as those under the age of 30.

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# The Money

To September 3: 36 weeks

	Projected 52 weeks	36 of 52	Actual Receipts	Difference + or -
Local Fund	\$ 180,730	\$ 125,121	\$ 116,845	\$ - 8,276
Mission and Service Fund	\$ 40,597	\$ 28,105	\$ 25,495	\$ - 2,610
TOTAL	\$ 221,327	\$ 153,226	\$ 142,340	\$ - 10,886

The above total for Mission and Service does not include a special Easter M & S offering of \$508.75.

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## What's the new stuff growing in the garden?

Church in Society decided to take advantage of an offer by **Faith and the Common Good** to come and do a garden audit this past spring. Mary Myles and Virginia MacLatchy met with their representative who suggested plants that were drought tolerant and bee and/or butterfly friendly. We decided to remove the spreading bee balm to give the other plants a better chance and planted Lavender, Sedum, Phlox, and Brown-eyed Susan, in addition to the

existing Yarrow, Echinacea, Common Milkweed and Evening Primrose. We visited a native plant nursery recently and as a result have added Great Blue Lobelia and Foxglove Beardtongue. For a history of our efforts over several years to develop a bee and butterfly-friendly garden, see [greeningsacredspaces.net](http://greeningsacredspaces.net). Go to Ottawa Updates- May 2017 –Ottawa Outdoor Greening Case Studies 2017. Trinity's garden is the third case study.

## Caldwell Boutique

Getting ready to look over your summer and winter wardrobe?  
Need space for new clothes?

Looking for a place to put your gently used clothes that you don't want anymore? Consider leaving them in the blue bin in the foyer at Trinity. They will be taken to the boutique at Caldwell. It is an opportunity for your clothes to find a new home and further life in somebody else's closet.

# TRINITY BAZAAR

**Saturday, November 18, 2017**

As the days cool off we start thinking about that **not-to-be-missed fun** day at Trinity.  
Make sure you keep that date open.

## **What can you do while you are waiting?**

- Jamming and preserving for our Kountry Kitchen: grape jelly, blueberry jam, chili sauce. Everyone loves homemade preserves. If you are a buyer of preserves not a maker, please return any 1-cup glass jars that you have and we will sterilize and re-use them.
- Get out those knitting needles and sewing machines: Alex Dunn and Danielle Parenteau have great ideas for crafts.
- De-clutter your basement and attic: (But don't bring them yet!) For our Attic Treasures and Book Room.
- Last year there was no candy to sell, so let's make lots this year.
- Consider where you would like to volunteer this year, and phone or email:

Sari Velichka [613-371-1128](tel:613-371-1128) [sarivelichka@gmail.com](mailto:sarivelichka@gmail.com)

Helen Barkley [613-723-0262](tel:613-723-0262) [helenbarkley57@gmail.com](mailto:helenbarkley57@gmail.com)

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## **Our Building**

By Liz Harper for the Property Committee  
Mike Velichka, Doug Kennedy, Alex Dunn, Nancy Bandoro

**Y**OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE has had a busy summer. If you make your way downstairs you will see a **newly renovated kitchen**. Countertops and sinks have been replaced and work is being done on a new cupboard between the stoves. We have also reorganized the kitchen to allow easier function for church users. The kitchen will be painted in the fall/ winter, if you like to paint, give Nancy Bandoro your name. Thank you to Chris Myles who gave countless hours of advice and support to the property committee during this Reno.

As well, paint touch-ups have **Tait Hall** looking fresh. We have invested in new folding chairs.

Outside near the back door you will see a **new bike rack**. And, if you look up, along the back wall, **new LED lights** add to visibility and security to our church.

Our committee is looking to increase membership, our motto is "many hands make light work," please think about volunteering. Give any member a call if you can help. 🐝

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## Our Community, Our World

### New Climate Change Film

Former United States Vice-President Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, which provides an update eleven years after his original influential film, is now showing in Ottawa theatres.

In view of the United States' decision to withdraw from the Paris Accord and recent devastating climate events, it is very timely and well-worth seeing.



**Customers to buy**

### Loblaws Grocery Cards

We are looking for new customers to add to our regulars. This summer we have had to drop our pledge to Annavale Nursery from \$300 a month to \$200 a month.

Please consider joining our club and buy cards from us on Sunday.  
Let's help our neighbours.

### Food for Thought and Thoughts about Food

#### Vegetarian Lunch

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**

The Church-In-Society (CIS) mandate is to raise awareness within the congregation and, where practical, beyond it, of the more pressing injustices of the day. In the world of 2017, there are ample instances to fill our Sunday bulletin many times over, so we need to be selective. Our primary focus this year is on the many faces of **Climate Change**.

On October 15, CIS plans to host a vegetarian lunch including a soup made of pulses, when we will discuss how this ties in directly with Climate Change.

We are always looking for movies or suitable speakers to highlight some significant wrong, and we will continue to occasionally invite members of the congregation to participate in a letter writing campaign, or sign a petition. CIS is at least a dozen strong, but we are always happy to welcome new members. If social justice issues energise you, please talk with any of our members.

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## Health and Safety

The Health and Safety (H&S) file is alive and well at Trinity. If you weren't aware of that, it's because nothing untoward has occurred recently, which is a good thing. You may have noticed that the building is checked over regularly for potential safety hazards (the most recent check list is on the notice board), and any infractions are corrected on an ongoing basis.

Should you become aware of any potential safety issue around the building, inside or out (a protruding nail, a failed light, a trip hazard, etc), please pass that info along for correction. Mike Velichka is the Chair of Property, Chris Humphrey is the H&S supervisor, and Jen Cass the Staff Representative.

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# Our Community, Our World

## The Group of Five

By Pam Sheehan for the Group of Five

Helen Barkley, Judi McLaren, Linda Hearty, and Deeqa Yussuf

**I**T IS 10 years since five members of Trinity signed the initial paperwork to sponsor some of the family of Deeqa Yussef, who lives on Clyde Avenue and works as a personal support worker at the Ottawa Hospital. Over the years, at each request from the government, more and more paperwork was submitted. Approximately a year ago, Deeqa's son Mohamed and his wife and five children were finally accepted as refugees to Canada and all of their medicals were completed. With great excitement, Deeqa began the arrangements to make room in her house for the family to arrive. The wait continues.

In Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, the largest in the world with 400,000 people, conditions have deteriorated. Kenya is making moves to close the camp and force the inhabitants who have sought shelter there out. The UNHCR is strenuously opposing this closure but they have little power

over this government. Up until recently Mohamed was able to work as a day labourer but all work and those who set up little shops has been stopped. Security is an ongoing problem in a camp as is the availability of food and medical care.

The medicals for this family will expire this October, forcing a probable one-year delay for them to be repeated. Our small group has petitioned Canadian Immigration both in Ottawa and Kenya to allow this family, who have waited so long and done all that has been asked of them, to come to Canada.

Please remember Deeqa's family in your prayers. Children should not be raised in a refugee camp but this is the reality for many little ones in our world today. Perhaps someday, by God's grace and a worldwide commitment to peace, refugee camps will become history.

## Winnie and Sai Update

By Virginia MacLatchy

Winnie and Sai's mother, sister and step-father who arrived last February have all returned to language school this fall. Samuel has started Senior Kindergarten and Rachel continues to go to day care. At not quite two and a half, she is speaking English well. Both children enjoyed swimming lessons this summer and plan to continue in the fall. Sai is very busy working- delivering for a local bakery as well as doing several cleaning jobs.

In the summer, the family took in the Changing of the Guard and watched boats go through the Rideau Canal locks. Since shortly after arriving in Canada, Winnie has wanted to see the Parliament Buildings and was excited to go on a tour recently. This family of seven is working hard to become responsible Canadians.

## The 2nd Trinity United Church Refugee Committee

By John Comfort

The third week of this month we will celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the Ghazal family to Canada from Syria by way of Turkey. It has been a full year of welcoming and supporting and guiding and encouraging a very lovely family. Members of our wonderful volunteer committee have gone above and beyond in their commitment

to the integration of the family into Canadian society.

As I am writing this, Rowan is preparing to start in a new school, and Roshan is anxiously waiting to get back to school to reconnect with her friends and learn. Haitham continues to work at a restaurant and dearly wants to find more work and work on his English. Suzan keeps things running well in the home and is an important contact for those providing support from our committee.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Refugee Committee  
continued from page 8

By the end of September, our official financial support will end but we know that there will continue to be an on-going need for support of various kinds. It is a real shock as they realize that the supports available to them from Social Services are limited. They will find it challenging to live this new reality.

The Ghazal family intended to move at this time but for now has decided to stay where they are and at the same time apply for social housing suitable to the family.

One of the biggest challenges is finding opportunities for all of the members of the family to work on their English skills. Daily social contacts outside of family are key to helping them improve their competence and confidence in order to enable them to expand work horizons. We are encouraging them to look for opportunities for such contacts.

The committee will continue to work closely with the family offering support for schooling, medical appointments, applications to social services and other services as needed and simply deepening friendships that have developed. Please feel free to ask committee members how you may be able to help out in the coming months and beyond.

We have also made a commitment to support the arrival of Zaenab's brother and nephew. Their applications seem to still be caught up in the complex processes that are a reality of the high levels of refugees waiting to come to Canada. They remain in Turkey and we will certainly let the members of Trinity know when we have news.

A sincere thank you to all for the continuing support from Trinity members and friends.

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## Book Study

*Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No in the Culture of Now*

By Walter Brueggemann

*Sabbath as a path to wholeness and societal restoration.*

**Wednesdays, November 1, 8 and 15**

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Friendship Room



### Trinity Men's Breakfast

The second Thursday of each month  
Summerhay's, 1971 Baseline Rd.  
at Woodroffe  
7:00 a.m.

Greetings to and from all of the participants of the Trinity Men's Breakfast Group. Autumn is just around the corner and we want to offer an opportunity for men in the congregation to gather once again once a month at Summerhays to reflect on the weekly scripture and share your experiences from the previous month. There is so much to learn from each other.

There is always room for new participants at our table so don't be shy. Please feel free to ask one of the regular participants if you have any questions.

**We meet at 7:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Summerhays at 1971 Baseline Road at Woodroffe.**

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## Visitors Program

The Visitors Program makes personal contact with the people of Trinity, sharing joys and sorrows, successes and difficulties on a personal level.

We have a Pastoral Care Team at Trinity, which provides support to individuals with particular pastoral needs. The Visitors Program ensures the Trinity family stays **connected** through a visit or a phone call. One of our group of 12 volunteer visitors will be getting in touch with you in October to set up a connection.

If you have any questions, or definitely do not want to be visited, please contact Helen Barkley at [613-723-0262](tel:613-723-0262).

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## Celebrations

Congratulations to **Eleanor and Roy McLeod** on their **60th wedding anniversary**, April 27, 2017.

Congratulations to **Esther and Bill Hamilton** on their **70th wedding anniversary**, June 14, 2017.

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## Deaths

**Bill Elliot**, August 1, 2017



**Ken Sargent**, August 12, 2017



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## Contributors

Rev. Erin Burns  
Chris Humphrey, Church in Society  
Virginia MacLatchy, Church in Society  
John Comfort, Men's Breakfast and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Refugee Committee  
Arlene Smith, Christian Development  
Pamela Sheehan, Trinity Refugee Committee  
Jean Meldrum, Outreach Committee  
Helen Barkley, Trinity Bazaar  
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## Trinity Topics

is published four times a year. Articles are gratefully accepted. The editors reserve the right to edit all material.

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