ELLIE’S FRONT PAGE

Our Story in Stained Glass

The Trinity United community is celebrating a half century in our landmark ark on Maitland Avenue. The Spirit shines particularly bright inside the ark now because of the colours of our new stained glass windows. After a few weeks of looking at them, I’m wondering what everyone else sees when you look at “Our Trinity Ark” on the west wall and “The Tree of Life” on the east?

I see Trinity as truly an ark—a place of sanctuary that feels safe for us all and serves to save the lives of the endangered. Remember the Russian refugee in the basement? And think ahead to the refugees Trinity will welcome again soon. I see the dove of peace that flies at the top of both windows as our symbol of the Holy Spirit and the flag of our commitment to social justice. I see the rainbow of the Noah story, recalling a Trinity musical that involved all ages in music and drama, as well as the rainbow of inclusivity that urges us on now, to become an Affirming church. In the waves under the ark I see the hand of God upholding our community, keeping us buoyant even through our roughest times on the river of life.

“The Tree of Life” speaks to me of our environmental passions to protect the natural glories that enhance and sustain our city life. It reminds me of our spiritual practice of guided scripture meditation, because our artist Beth Jenkin first saw this tree grow out of a meditation on the Tree of Life in Revelations. I see our distinctive Trinity Cross behind the tree, with its wide open corner, symbolizing the open-minded thinking and open-hearted welcome of this community.

Perhaps most of all, when I look at these beautiful windows, I see Trinity as a creative spiritual community where passions take flight in action, where people come together to co-create, and where everyone’s colours are complementary, because we choose to see each other back-lit by the Spirit that shines in every one. See the Light. Make the Light. Be the Light. How will God’s Light shine through us? How will we show our colours as a spiritual community? What next Trinity?

In loving accompaniment with you all,

Ellie

Sunday Mornings

Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Nursery Care at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation in the Friendship Room after worship

Joyful Noise! children's choir practice and Parents’ Circle downstairs at 11:00 a.m.
Our Building

You may have noticed it has been **warmer in the sanctuary**. The heat is now turned up on Saturday afternoon and then reduced after the service.

Also we have a **new contractor for snow plowing** this year. It is a contract plan whereby they automatically apply salt/sand when needed (at cost of course). We hope this method will result in less ice build-up.

News

**Expect a Call! April is a Trinity Visitors Month**

Twice each year, caring volunteers check in with every Trinity household. **This tradition helps us to keep connected and reminds us that we belong to a caring church community no matter what is happening in our lives.** It’s your opportunity to let us know if your church can do anything to better support you and your loved ones.

Some of the team make phone calls, some visit Trinity families at home, others host lunches to get together. If you haven’t been hearing from a visitor and would like to, or if you’d rather not participate in this community-building effort, please let **Visitors’ Coordinator Anne Boswall** know at anneboswall@yahoo.com or through the Trinity office at 613-225-3627.

**Laughs at Games Day**

Adults and children enjoyed themselves at our second annual **games day** on Saturday, January 18, 2014. Some of the most popular games played were Cranium, Crokinole, Pass the Pigs, Racko and Scrabble. The afternoon culminated in a fun all-generation round of Charades, where we shared a lot of laughter.

**The Pilgrim Journey**

A warm thank you to our four pilgrims, **Helen Barkley, Sally Cuddy, Jennifer Grant and Mary Martineau** for offering an informative and insightful presentation on January 24, 2014, describing their 200-km pilgrimage along **El Camino de Santiago** in Spain. With the aid of beautiful slides, they took us along their faithful journey through some of the architecture, history and scenery of the region. The talk was sprinkled with personal stories, humorous recollections and interesting facts.

**50th Anniversary**

The Congregational Life Group will commemorate **Trinity’s 50th anniversary** with highlight moments throughout the year. Enjoy the surprising walks down memory lane.
Kids Korner

I want to thank everyone—parents, teachers and especially Sunday school students—for such an amazing Christmas Eve pageant! It was a really great success and I heard wonderful things from members of our Trinity community who enjoyed it. You should all be very proud of yourselves, and it was a pleasure seeing you all work so hard to bring such a wonderful piece of work to life.

It was a meaningful Christmas season overall, as our pre-teen-aged youth also helped sort Festival of Sharing gifts and shared lunch together. We look forward to more youth-oriented participation and events between now and the spring.

This year four amazing young women received Grade Four Bibles: Ren Krewsky, Helen McCulligh, Kendra White and Rosie Taylor. I have had the pleasure of working closely with all four in our senior Sunday School class this year and so much enjoy their interest, enthusiasm and welcomed contributions to our conversations and activities.

The Sunday School offerings this spring will go to the Ottawa Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI). In Sunday School and worship we will explore and appreciate other religions. The Multifaith Housing Initiative is a perfect match for our learnings. MHI is the constructive response of all of Ottawa's faith communities to the fact that only secure housing allows people to recover from poverty, addictions, mental health issues and other struggles that contribute to homelessness. Our children will decorate little houses with world faith symbols to save their Sunday School offerings in. Trinity families are encouraged to participate together in the MHI Tulipathon on May 4th at 2:30 p.m., when all the faith communities show up in their costumes and colours to walk around Dow's Lake, in support of housing initiatives for Ottawa's most vulnerable. Please be part of this new Trinity effort!

This initiative matches the themes of our curriculum in February and through Lent. In our Sunday School classes we'll look at different faiths and talk about inclusion, affirmation and support of people in all different circumstances. We will cap off the Lenten season with an intergenerational drama service on Palm Sunday.

In the coming few weeks I will be working with parents and Sunday School teachers to find a new curriculum to support our growing Sunday School for the upcoming year.

The CD committee, Ellie and I are looking at ways to provide spiritual nurture and support to our parents—such a crucial, busy, hard-working part of our community. Ellie will lead a 20 minute Relaxation Meditation for Parents in the Sanctuary after Worship on Sunday March 2nd. Whether through meditation and devotion or simply touching base every couple of weeks during Joyful Noise! practice, we want to be sure our time together is meaningful for all.

As the weather warms up, and we look ahead to another renewal of God's beautiful creation in the springtime, I appreciate the blessings in our Trinity community and look forward to continuing to work and play with you all into the spring! :)

Love, Sarah

PLEDGE PERFORMANCE - 2014
To January 26 - 4 weeks

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Our Community, Our World

Trinity Jubilee Foundation 2014

The Trinity Jubilee Foundation (TJF) will launch its 2014 campaign at the March 16 service with a visit from long-time partner Bev Carrick, Executive Director of Cause Canada. Bev is a truly inspired speaker who has worked in Sierra Leone since 1984.

For 2014, TJF is sponsoring the following projects:

Women’s Empowerment International Foundation (WEIF) provides Pakistani women living in poverty with the financial resources to support themselves and their families by means of a microcredit project. Low-interest loans of $2500.00 are made to groups of five women. Since 2008, 735 women have borrowed loans with a 100% repayment rate. The amount awarded by TJF is to cover the costs of establishing another office in a remote area, paying rent and office expenses for one year in order to support 100 additional entrepreneurial women.

Inter Pares, a Canadian social justice organization, partners with Likhaan, a women’s health organization in the Philippines. The Likhaan staff are locally trained women who provide pre-and post-natal care and family planning counselling to more than 30,000 patients annually. Likhaan is advocating for the implementation of the Reproductive Health Law, which it is estimated would reduce maternal deaths by 2,000 annually. Our funds would be matched by CIDA on a 3:1 basis.

Cause Canada funding will go to the Moyamba Infant Nutrition Project in Sierra Leone. The project provides rural communities with nutritional monitoring for infants, referrals of acutely malnourished babies to feeding rehabilitation centres, and trains mothers on proper nutrition through Mom’s Clubs. UNICEF matches these funds on a 8:1 basis.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26 for our spring concert fundraiser featuring the Capital City Chorus.

Lifelong Learning

Spring Spirituality Retreat in Morrisburg

Date to be determined

Ellie will lead an overnight retreat at the gracious village home of the MacKays, by the St. Lawrence River. We will meditate, walk in silence, pray, create and play together. When we announce the date, sign up promptly as bed space is limited.

Trinity Men’s Breakfast

Second Thursday of the month 7:00 a.m.

A core group of 8 to 10 men gather monthly to share a meal and an hour of reflection, to bring each other up to date on areas of interest in our lives. We share a scripture reading to start our reflection and then enjoy the opportunity to learn from the wisdom of each other’s life experiences.

Come and join us at Summerhays at 1971 Baseline Rd at 7:00 a.m. on the second Thursday morning of each month: February 13, March 13, April 10, and May 8.

Please join us!
Caldwell Family Centre

There is always a BIG THANK YOU from the Caldwell Family Centre for all the ways that Trinity helps them. Trinity folks donate money and gifts to prepare the Christmas Hampers, used clothing, and food to supplement their shelves at the Food Bank. The Outreach Committee provides monthly financial assistance to their Food Bank.

Another way that we could help them is with hygiene supplies. If you wish to support this programme you could leave items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, soap and other toiletries in the large blue box in the lobby.

Refugee Update

Recently the refugee committee met and decided that we remain committed to sponsoring a refugee(s) to come to our city. Since we have had two setbacks with the targeting of refugees (both wished to go to Toronto), we will widen our search to those in most need.

There are thousands of singles, couples and small families languishing in harsh conditions in refugee camps throughout the world and more than 20 enthusiastic volunteers at Trinity to help them settle in Canada. The current refugee crisis in Syria is in the news, but this group is not currently available for sponsorship. It can take months, or even years, for refugees from an active war zone to be identified and processed to go to a safe country.

Although the sponsorship costs are shared by the government, the refugee committee hopes to do some fundraising to help with our church’s contribution.

We have faith that our God of compassion and grace is the most wise matchmaker of all. We will keep you posted.

Pam Sheehan
Trinity Refugee Committee (October group)

Unsettling Goods

Please help to promote peace in Palestine and Israel by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

The UN denounces the settlements which are illegal under international law and says that Israel must cease all settlements, initiate a process of withdrawal of all settlers and provide prompt remedy to all Palestinian victims of human rights violations resulting from the settlements.

Please do what you can to end the settlements and promote peace in the Middle East. It is not anti-Semitic to avoid goods made on stolen Palestinian territory. Pick up an information card on the CIS table for details.

Clean Water

On January 31, we hosted Ottawa Riverkeeper, Meredith Brown, who enlightened 70 of us on the health of our river and the threats to it. She inspired us to action, giving us various suggestions as to what we, as individuals, and as groups, can do to be stewards of this vital part of Creation. We will be exploring these over the next few months. Watch our bulletin board and Life and Work for what you can do.
Worship Calendar

Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. Coffee, cookies and conversation after the service.

Feb 9  World Religions II: Islam
        Installation of new council members

Feb 16  World Religions III: Judaism

Feb 23  World Religions IV: Buddhism
        Cantiamo sings

Mar 2   World Religions V: Indigenous
        Communion

Mar 9   LENT I: Meditating

Mar 16  LENT II: Bev Carrick, Cause Canada

Mar 23  LENT III: Affirming

Mar 30  LENT IV: Forgiving

Apr 6   LENT V: Singing Justice with Bob Carty

Apr 13  Palm Sunday Drama

Apr 18  Good Friday Service

Apr 20  EASTER - Communion at stations

Apr 27  Transcendance

May 4   Celebrating Water - Scouts Visit

May 11  Mother’s Day - Communion in pews

May 18  Nature
How Things Happen: Glass, Mission and More

At our January council meeting, Chris Humphrey presented his interpretation of how our stained glass project became a reality.

He walked council members through each step, outlining how the ideas applied to the stained glass project.

1. **A longing, a need.** We loved our people and the spirit of Trinity, but we all missed having windows in the sanctuary, didn’t we? We longed for, felt the need for, some stained glass to brighten our worship space.

2. **Vision.** Donations made out of love to our memorial fund allowed people to dream. From that arose a vision of light shining through stained glass.

3. **Motivation.** Many visions flit into and out of our heads without taking shape in reality. For thought to transform into something physical, one or more people need motivation to take the first step. This is where Chris's work on this project began.

4. **Inspiration.** In our church, we turn to the archaic use of this word: to breathe on, or to breathe into. In this case, Beth received the breath of inspiration during one of our meditation sessions. The guided meditation led her to a vision of the tree of life, infused with light, fed by a flowing river.

5. **Creativity.** Beth began her artwork. She drew on the creativity of others to make the two pieces of art represent the spirit of Trinity.

6. **Action.** With the vision in place, the work began. Chris got the glass, set up the work spaces and sought volunteers to help him. He trained people to cut and solder the glass.

7. **Enthusiasm.** The more people thought about this, the more enthusiastic they became. The project became a labour of love for many. Their enthusiasm drew in others to help.

8. **Community Involvement.** As Beth's vision faded shockingly quickly, she had to reach out for help. Alex Dunn worked with Beth to support her emotionally through her dramatic loss of sight and to help her complete the artwork. More than 30 people helped with the project.

9. **The cycle.** Chris drew his graphic with the community involvement flowing back into inspiration, creativity, action. He believes that when a group of people see the successful fulfillment of one dream, it allows them to believe in the possibility of other miracles: the impossible becomes possible. They ask, “What next?”

I can see Chris’s ideas in our Momentum for Mission work, too. I see it in the support for our organ repairs. I see it blossoming in a group of people exploring the idea of affirming congregations. A need leads to a vision and a motivation to seek inspiration. The inspiration leads to creativity, enthusiasm, action and community involvement.

And the cycle carries on in a spiral of miraculous outcomes.

So, what’s next?

Arlene Smith
Chair of Council
Stained Glass Reflections

**Faith and Enthusiasm**
Chris Humphrey

Once the project began, I was being considered the expert, yet I had never previously done anything of this magnitude. I only started working with stained glass as a hobby five years ago. It was all done on faith, although my background in engineering helped with a lot of aspects, like the required precision, working with different materials, soldering, etc. What helped the most was being surrounded by so much enthusiasm.

**Challenges Along the Way**
Alex Dunn

After the ark panel was completed, Chris and Bryne Hearty found one piece of glass cracked—it was a light blue piece in the rainbow and it had to be replaced. This was a devastating moment as the potential for further damage on other pieces was possible. They managed to replace the piece successfully.

Several pieces of glass already assembled in the actual ark, were not the intended colour. Again another headache: all the pieces below the ark had to be removed in order to replace the right colours. After soldering each joint we checked and rechecked the completed panels to make sure they were all soldered, and yet, we kept finding missed joints!

Although we worked steadily in Trinity's kitchen throughout the summer and managed to finish the ark panel, we ran out of time and had to vacate our workshop to ready the room for the regular Trinity users in September. Thankfully, Chris was willing to clean out his garage to use it as our new workshop to assemble the tree panel.

This also meant that we had to label 380+ pieces of glass to be carefully packed in boxes for moving. Helen Barkley graciously agreed to label the Tree of Life template with the appropriate codes.

Once the tree panel was assembled, it had to be transported back to Trinity to be placed in its frame. It was too delicate to be just placed in a truck, so Chris designed a gurney to facilitate the move down Agincourt Road.

Initially the wooden frame for the panels was to be cut and made by a contractor, who decided to retire at a very inconvenient time! Thankfully, Chris Humphrey, Bryne Hearty and Jack MacDonald took on the task of building the two boxes.

Although most wall supports in buildings have vertical studs, the ones in our sanctuary are horizontal, making it difficult to hang heavy items. Chris came up with another mounting arrangement: Steel support brackets that could hold the 140-pound finished stained glass boxes.
**Who knew that one could live in a world of stained glass for six months?**

Helen Barkley

All through the summer and fall as Chris and I shared our morning coffee, our conversation would reveal another intricate detail of the stained glass project at the church, usually with a solution to a current problem: How to stack the many sheets of glass at the beginning, how best to cut and fit the 700 pieces of glass together, how to flip a partly finished very large heavy window, where to clean the glass with solvents (not in the parking lot, it turns out), and how to mount something so heavy 20 feet over one's head with only ropes and manpower.

I wonder what we'll talk about now.

**Synchronicity**

Jennifer Grant

Making the windows had a wonderful synchronicity - a variety of talents and skills, faith-full subject matter, companionable communion, glorious colour, challenges and laughter, and an outburst of congregational creativity. It was exciting to be part of all that. I hope the congregation enjoys the windows as beautiful to look at but also as a coming together of the best of what it means to be Trinity United Church.

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**Symbols and Spirit Work**

Beth Jenkin

The beauty about art is that everyone sees different things and it holds meaning in different ways for people. That is my hope when these pieces are being viewed from the pews. There are times when images can provide just as much comfort as words.

The shape of each panel came from the actual architecture of the church. In the balcony on the back wall there is a central rectangle with a triangle on top. This was the spark from which the whole shape of the window stemmed.

The images in both windows are divided into three sections from top to bottom, which in the designs were meant to incorporate visible steel crossbars (which are now hidden.) Symbolically, this represents Trinity.

The squares in the background of each panel (sky and grass) echo the squares in the quilt at the front of the church and in the architectural geometry of the sanctuary.

The red colour in the ark and tree is meant to imitate the red carpet in the sanctuary.

Working on this project has been surprising, encouraging and beyond. I learned that when life throws you something unexpected and when things feel just too difficult, many hands make light work, and the encouragement of someone goes a long way in helping them on their journey. It is truly incredible what can be created when people come together and try and believe and work hard. When talents and strengths are valued and when everyone's unique perspective is listened to; when every thought is considered and when there is deep respect for one another and for what they can bring to the table, remarkable things happen. When all these pieces of loving humanity are brought together they make a whole. And when lit, this remarkable thread brings out spirit that works through all of us.

**Finding the Light**

Alex Dunn

Cerulean blue, pyrrole crimson, cadmium yellow, burnt umber… Learning the names of these colours and how to mix them to make new ones was but a small part of what I learned while being immersed in Beth's world of art. Not only did I discover some technical and fascinating aspects about painting, but more importantly I learned from Beth how to find the light during times of adversity, how to remain positive, embrace change and be willing to adapt.

Working with Chris was equally rewarding. His dedication and commitment to the stained glass project was invaluable, as was his ability to come up with ingenious solutions to challenges along the way. Chris was the mastermind of this undertaking. He planned and oversaw every step with meticulous detail. His thoughtfulness and devotion inspired me and those around him.
Blessings of Beauty
Anthea Brandon

I have been humbled, elated, and spiritually blessed watching Beth’s original designs—already wonderfully beautiful—shaped, improved, enriched and filled with a richness and plenitude of meaning that now will shine over us as we join together in worship.

The work, the energy and dedication of so many of Trinity’s congregation, led by Beth, Mike, Chris and Alex has brought forth this blessing of beauty that will, I am sure, enrich the spiritual lives of those fortunate enough to see it for years to come. I feel greatly privileged to have seen it come to fruition.

Our People

Thank you to the Trinity Visitors Group

Each year in spring and fall a special group of people contact many members of the Trinity family. Thanks to our dedicated, friendly visitors, who reach out to keep Trinity a strong spiritual community: Nancy Bandoro, Doreen Coleman, Shelia McHugh, Helen Shaw, Helen Barkley, Marion Matheson, Jane McKeague, Connie Quirk, Linda Hearty, Ken Graham, Effie Woodland, Betty Hartley, Sylvia Barrow, Gayle Conley, Alexandra Dunn and Maureen Belgrave-Salvador.

We really need two or three more visitors. Those who have been visitors agree that it is a rewarding task, so please think about offering your time. Contact the Trinity office 613 225-3627 or send an email to anneboswall@yahoo.com.

Contributors

Rev. Ellie Barrington
Sarah Daigen, Minister of Children, Youth and Families
Helen Shaw, Envelope Secretary
Pamela Sheehan, Church in Society
Derek Kitchen, Congregational Life Group
Arlene Smith, Chair of Council
Virginia MacLatchy, Church in Society
John Comfort, Men’s Breakfast
Jean Meldrum, Outreach Committee
Helen Barkley, Trinity Jubilee Foundation
Alex Dunn, Stained Glass
Alex Dunn, Derek Kitchen, and Chris Humphrey, Photos

Spirit Matters
Trinity United Church Ottawa