



Spring/Summer 2017

Trinity Topics

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, OTTAWA

www.trinityunitedottawa.ca

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

Erin's Front Page

I am so thrilled that it is finally spring. I haven't completely given in and put the mittens away, it is still April after all, but I am feeling rejuvenated as I shed my winter coat and boots. Spring in Ottawa is so short, and unpredictable, it sometimes seems like we are swinging between the extremes—winter and summer—with only a few days that are truly “spring.”

I love the the potential all wrapped up in this season. The little shoots appearing out of the mud as if by magic, the increasing green all around us, the longer days, and the warm sun. But part of what I really love about spring is that we hold onto the memory of winter. It takes some time for us to live through the transition of the seasons, and the rushing water as the snow melts away and the lingering piles in the shadows keep winter in our minds.

As a congregation, we come to this new season, not ignoring the losses of our winter, but knowing that they bring us to where we are. Like the snow melting to create opportunities for new growth, our last few months have created opportunities for us to come together in different ways than we might have expected. Our Spring-Fling was a great opportunity for some fun, and rejuvenation. We got to enjoy in each other's company and were reminded that we have a diversity of interests and gifts that make us a varied and rich community.

And as we inch into the warmer weather, we have some little shoots, growing up. In our last edition of Trinity Topics, I suggested you should keep watch for some new projects in the works, and I am thrilled invite you to join the following:

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Selections from *A Spring Blessing*

Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr

Blessed are you, spring,
bright season of life awakening.
You gladden our hearts
with opening buds and returning leaves
as you put on your robes of splendor.

Blessed are you, spring.
Like Jesus, standing before the tomb of Lazarus,
you call to us: “Remove winter’s stone, come out,
there is life here you have not yet tasted.”

Blessed are you, spring.
Your renewing rain showers and cathartic storms
nurture the potential that sleeps in Earth’s heart
and in our earthen hearts.

Blessed are you, spring,
season of hope and renewal.
Wordless poem about all within us
that can never die.
Each year you amaze us
with the miracle of returning life.

Erin's Front Page
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Wednesday Walks: Wednesdays in May, June and July 12:00-1:00

Knitting Circle: 2nd Sunday of the month, after church.

Book Study: *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Bike Blessing: Sunday May 28 1:00 p.m. (Rain date, June 4)

Please help to spread the word. It is a great chance for us to connect with the neighbours.

As we come out of the Season of Lent, we are going to shift our focus in worship from Connection to Kindness, something our world could use more of. We have some really interesting visitors coming to join our worship and I am really looking forward to the possibilities that are springing up around Trinity.



Our Sunday school kids talk about loving our enemies.

Trinity Kids

By Arlene Smith

The Latest on Leadership

Ken Graham, Heather McCulligh and I worked together on reviewing the job description for the person who will lead our children youth and families.

First, we talked to people at Trinity to hear their thoughts. Second, we read through material from Ottawa Presbytery to familiarize ourselves with their expectations. Finally, we went through each point in the previous job description and decided what to leave in, what to remove and what to clarify. At the end of that process we arrived at a job description very similar to the previous one, with a few points clarified to avoid confusion.

This job description will be presented to council on April 25. After council reviews and approves it, Ottawa Presbytery will take a look, and then we can proceed with seeking new leadership for our children, youth and families. If all goes well, it is possible we could have a new person in place by the fall.

Nursery

The nursery is a different kind of challenge. We have had a roller-coaster ride trying to find the right fit. We are grateful that **Samantha Cass** has agreed to assist in the nursery from now until the middle of June. We will try another job posting in the fall when students return to the area.

In the past we have had high school students help us out with the position for either pay or volunteer hours. If you know available and interested high school students, let me know.

Sunday School

It is a joy to spend time with the children at Trinity. Every week they have something new to tell us or to ask about, so we learn from them as they learn from us. For the past few weeks we have been talking about hope, faith and loving our enemies even when it's hard. Especially when it's hard.

We have ordered the **Whole People of God** curriculum for the 2017-18 season. It's easy to use and familiar at this time of transition.

We—and the kids—are beyond-words grateful to the new teachers who have stepped forward to help with Sunday school. Thanks to their support Sunday school is running smoothly. And **Sheila Meggs** has taken on the monumental task of cleaning out and organizing the Sunday school cupboards. This is a big job! Thank you, Sheila!

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.

Sunday, April 16	EASTER: Expectation and Surprise Intergenerational service Communion
Sunday, April 23	Relationship as social justice Joyful Noise! Sings Erin away - Worship Committee leads
Sunday, April 30	Affirming Celebration! Ottawa Gay Mens Chorus sings
Sunday, May 7	Kindness Aged in Harmony Choir sings Baptism
Sunday, May 14	Christian Family Sunday Communion in pews
Sunday, May 21	Rogation Sunday Victoria Day Weekend
Sunday, May 28	Speaker from TJF
Sunday, June 4	Pentecost Communion at stations
Sunday, June 11	Trinity Sunday Choir Day
Sunday, June 18	Aboriginal Sunday Final Day of Sunday school

Wednesday Walks

Meet Erin for conversation and fellowship on the bike path.
Wednesdays in May, June and July
from 12 to 1 p.m.
Wear walking shoes.

W is for ... Worship

By Anthea Brandon

W is also for Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all comers by Trinity United as a whole and by the ushers for a service in particular. (More on ushering elsewhere in this edition of *Trinity Topics*.)

W is for Why Not?

As you may have noticed, during the Lenten Sunday services, members of the Worship committee have been leading the pastoral prayers. This has led to a diversity of approaches to prayer and we hope that you have enjoyed this as much as we have enjoyed preparing for this way to participate. It is hoped that this lay leadership of the pastoral prayers will continue after Easter, but widening out from members of this one committee to include volunteers from the entire congregation. So why not give it a try? You will probably enjoy it as much as we have!

W is also for Wonder

Wonder what is coming up in worship at Trinity United next? Well, a whole wagon-load of events, beginning with Easter, of course, followed by the celebration of the first anniversary of Trinity's decision to become an Affirming Congregation, a baptism, bicycle blessing and much, much more. Come along and see!

W is for Wow!

A grand total of 34 potted plants, 17 lilies and 17 mums have been ordered to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory of all our lost loved ones. It should add much beauty to the ambience and will help to fund the gorgeous floral arrangements in the Sanctuary made by Derek Kitchen throughout the year. Many thanks to all: remember to collect your plant!

This article was brought to you through the grace of the nurturing spirit of God and by the letter W & number 34.

Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 6
9:00 a.m. to noon

Donation drop-off Friday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Clothes, linens, toys, dishes, household items, books, CDs, DVDs, small appliances and more!

Fun Facts about Ushering

Did you know that ushering is a good way to get to know your fellow congregants?

Whether you are a newbie at Trinity United or have been attending services here for decades, serving as an usher upon occasion can help to give you a new perspective on those you may have only seen vaguely, perhaps leading to new friendships.

Did you know that serving as ushers is not reserved just for adults?

It might be a worthwhile family project to participate in a service as ushers and can give youngsters a real sense of accomplishment in so doing.

Did you know that the duties of an usher are not onerous?

They are explained in detail on a sheet in the Gallery.

Did you know that the more volunteers for ushering that there are, the fewer times will each volunteer need to participate?

For more information re volunteering as an usher, please contact Karen Sibbald at karensibbald@hotmail.com

The Money

Pledge Performance to April 2: 14 weeks

	Projected 52 weeks	14 of 52	Actual Receipts	Difference
Local Fund	\$ 180,730	\$ 48,658	\$ 47,223	\$ - 1,435
Mission and Service Fund	\$ 40,597	\$ 10,930	\$ 10,825	\$ - 105
TOTAL	\$ 221,327	\$ 59,588	\$ 58,048	\$ - 1,540

Being Helpful

Ian MacKay, Co-chair, Trinity United Church Council

Since returning to council as co-chair last year I have been struck by the willingness of people at Trinity to help.

Years ago, at a Trinity book sale, I found a copy of Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* written in the 1930s. Dale Carnegie was one of the first great American self-help book authors. He wrote in the familiar fashion of the genre, a mix of psychology, religion and pithy tips for good living. You can still take a Dale Carnegie "course" to this day.

One of Carnegie's tips that stuck with me, written in the misogynist language of the day, held that **"criticize a man and he will do nothing for you; ask for his help and he will bend over backwards to the best of his ability to lend a hand."**

It is in our nature to want to be helpful. Seldom do folks refuse to take on a job when directly asked for help. If you see something at Trinity that needs fixing, ask someone to help. You'll be surprised how easy it is.

We don't want anyone to miss...

this year's **Trinity Bazaar**, to be held

Saturday, November 18, 2017

Lots of food, lots of fun, lots to buy . . .



Our Community, Our World

Summer Camp Project

Summer time brings back memories of my camp experiences. It is a time to enjoy the outdoors, physical activity and an opportunity to make new friends.

Many children would love that opportunity but it is not financially possible for them.

Trinity Outreach Committee supports 5 different camps that allow children the opportunity to experience the joy of camping.

If you feel you are able to help us in our project, you can leave a donation in one of the envelopes found in the pews during the month of May.



Scholarship

TOC members are in the process of interviewing candidates for the annual scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded to a student from the Caldwell area who is continuing with education after high school.

The congregation will have an opportunity to meet the recipient in September.

Thank you!

School Supplies

During the summer months and up to the end of September, the Outreach committee will be collecting school supplies.

Useful items are:

book bags, crayons, markers, pencils, pens, glue, lined paper, blank paper, math sets, rulers, etc.

In September the school supplies will be distributed to young children in the Caldwell area. Please leave your donations in the big blue bin in the foyer.



The Caldwell Family Centre Needs

Gently used educational toys for their toy lending program



Diapers

Baby food



Our Community, Our World

Environment, Climate Change and Climate Justice

By Chris Humphrey and Virginia MacLatchy

The Church in Society committee is focusing on the Environment, Climate Change and Climate Justice. We have placed a series of factoids in the bulletin each week, and on Saturday, March 25, CIS participated in the Trinity Fun Day and Pot Luck by showing a short video in the Gallery. We provided information and assisted folks in calculating their carbon footprint. I believe those that did were surprised by how theirs compared to the national average, and by how difficult it would be to reduce the value significantly.

To find out the size of your carbon footprint go to

<http://offsets.greeningsacredspaces.org/>

By the time you are reading this, CIS will also have screened a movie (April 7 – *The Wisdom to Survive*). We hope you saw it and participated in the subsequent discussion. We have added four books on the environment to the Trinity Library – we will be briefly reviewing each in an upcoming bulletin.

A CIS member thought it would be a good idea for Trinity to provide a bicycle rack for those interested in cycling to church – Property and Council agree, so hopefully, you will be able to secure your bike while in church.



Knitting Circle

The second Sunday of the month, after church in the Gallery.

Bring your current project and your sense of humour—our last gathering involved a lot of laughter.

Bike Blessing

Sunday May 28th 1:00 p.m.

(Rain date, June 4)

For all ages! Bring your bike for a blessing in the parking lot and a chance to ride together.

Please help us spread the word of this to the community—it is a great chance for us to connect with the neighbours.

Canada's National Bird Affected by Climate Change



Even Canada's national bird, the grey jay (also known as the Canada jay or the whiskey jack), is affected by climate change. Since food is scarce in the winter, the grey jay gathers food earlier, covers it with sticky saliva and stores it under bark or lichen. It needs cold winters to refrigerate these food caches that it uses to feed its young.

Warming temperatures especially in the southern reaches of its range, such as Algonquin Park, may not bode well for this species, according to an article in *Canadian Wildlife* magazine, March-April 2017.

Our Community, Our World

Refugee Updates

By Pamela Sheehan, for the Group of Five and Refugee Committee
And John Comfort, for the 2nd Trinity United Church Refugee Committee

From Burma (Myanmar)

Sai, Winnie, Samual and Rachel have now been in Canada for three years. Although they struggle to improve their language skills and "keep their heads above water," they work hard and are determined to stay off social assistance. Sai continues to do a few jobs, including driving for Uber. Winnie is trying to build up more housecleaning clients.

As with many refugees who make their way to a new life, they remain very concerned about their family left behind. Recently, through a government sponsorship, Sai was able to bring his mother, step-father and sister to Ottawa. They are currently all living together in the two-bedroom apartment, which poses some challenges. In May, the extended family will move to the apartment above Sai and Winnie and assist with childcare so Sai and Winnie can work.

On Sunday April 9, a party for Rachel's second birthday was held in the Friendship Room.

As we are finding out, working with refugee families is a multi-year commitment. Their struggles become ours, but we are blessed to reach out to others who's life experiences teach us that we are indeed one world through God's love.

From Somalia

Deeqa's family may arrive this spring from a refugee camp in Kenya where her son, Mohamed, has been for over 10 years. He now has a wife and five children, the last little girl born in January.

Deeqa currently lives in a townhouse opposite Burger King on Clyde Ave. and is working hard at the hospital to save for their arrival. Bryne Hearty, along with Deeqa's Son Kamal have been working countless hours to prepare the basement for this family to live in. Perhaps once they arrive we will ask Trinity members for clothing donations, especially for the children.



As you can see from these two families offered an opportunity for a new life by Trinity members, their hopes and dreams are to bring their loved ones to safety and a chance for some kind of future. The parents work hard knowing that it is through their children that their family will prosper. We all have the same hopes for our children worldwide; that they may go to school in safety, have opportunities to play, to worship how they wish, and become part of the fabric that makes our country great.

We cannot grow spiritually if we ignore our humanness just as we cannot become fully human if ignore our spirituality. —Jean Vanier

From the 2nd Trinity United Church Refugee Committee

It is amazing when we stop and realize that **Suzan, Haitham, Roshan and Rowan** arrived in Ottawa just over six months ago. I know they are looking forward to spring and warmer weather so they can get out onto their bikes. **Thank you Chris for setting up the locker to allow safe storage.**

I am very grateful for the support of the members of the committee and for the on-going support from Trinity that ensures that we can support the family well. Our commitment is solid but it is important to know that there are always surprises that come along.

Suzan and Haitham have been very committed to their ESL sessions but the initial formal classes are coming to an end. Committee members, along with the family are looking hard to find alternatives as both Haitham and Suzan know the importance of having English. Both girls are progressing in school

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and we are pleased that Rowan is more and more comfortable in a learning environment. The family has connected with a Saturday Arabic activity group that has been a god-send for them.

We did not anticipate the level of need for dental care but have been able to help the family find the support they need for this basic need.

Haitham is truly anxious to find work as they have dreams that they want to realize. Some applications have or will be made soon. Haitham has a résumé so **if anyone is aware of possible work in a restaurant or food services, please get in contact with one of the committee members** so that we can make enquiries.

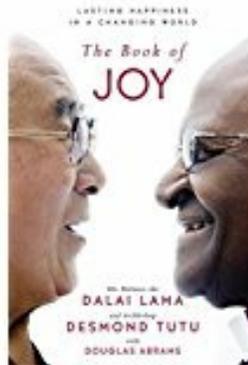
Finally, I would like to express our thanks to Brian and Betty Hartley for the hard work that they put into making this 2nd Refugee Committee come to life. With Betty's changing needs, Brian has announced his resignation as our treasurer and as a committee member. We are grateful that Sara Grimwood has agreed to step in as our new treasurer as we continue the important support of the family towards more autonomy and initiative.



Lifelong Learning

The Book of Joy

By Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Adams



*How do we find joy
in the face of
life's inevitable suffering?*

Join us on Thursday
evenings in May/June to
discuss the insights we can
mine from this book.
Dates will be announced
soon.

Discover how to seek peace, courage, and joy
in the midst of life's turmoils.



Trinity Men's Breakfast

The second Thursday of each month
Summerhay's
7:00 a.m.

In this time of spring and resurrection, we are reminded how wonderful it is to have the opportunity to gather early in the morning to reflect on what is important in our lives—in our hearts, in our minds, in our relationships with our families and friends. This brings us new life.

Trinity Men's Breakfast group meets on the second Thursday of each month for breakfast at Summerhay's at Woodroffe and Baseline from 7:00 a.m. until it is a good time to leave. Come and join us to share some spiritual nourishment as well as a good meal together in a setting where we can bring our ideas and concerns, our moments of wonderment and our lived challenges to the table to be shared and held by others.

Our upcoming gatherings will be on **April 13, May 11 and June 8.**

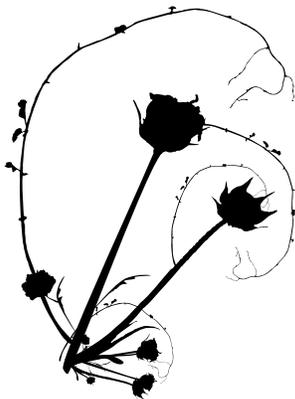
If you have questions, please contact John Comfort.

Spirit Matters

Poem submitted by Pamela Sheehan,
as we reflect on Vimy and the horrors of war
and question the need for it.

From
"And There Was a Great Calm"
by Thomas Hardy"
on the signing of the Armistice Nov.11,1918

Calm fell. From Heaven distilled a clemency;
There was peace on earth, and silence in the sky;
Some could, some could not, shake off misery:
The Sinister Spirit sneered: " It had to be!"
And again the Spirit of Pity whispered, Why?"



Contributors

Rev. Erin Burns
Chris Humphrey, Church in Society
Virginia MacLatchy, Church in Society
John Comfort, Men's Breakfast
Arlene Smith, Christian Development
Pamela Sheehan, Trinity Refugee Committee
Jean Meldrum, Outreach Committee
Helen Barkley, Trinity Bazaar
Helen Shaw, Envelope Secretary
Anthea Brandon, Worship Committee
Jen Cass, Church Administrator

Updates

Address update

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Deaths

Leslie Cody-Durocher, January 31, 2017
Ruth Boudreau, February 11, 2017
Vi Hovey, March 10, 2017

Need help with spring
cleaning or yard work?

Winnie and Sae are
available weekday
afternoons (except
Wednesdays) after 1p.m.

The suggested fee is \$20
per hour.

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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Deadline for next edition:
Sunday, September 3, 2017
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