



# Shelburne-Primrose Pastoral Charge Newsletter

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## Lenten Season a Time of Study

The Lenten Season is one of contemplation and renewal. In the early church, the weeks before Easter were a time of fasting and prayer for all those wishing to be baptized into the congregation of the faithful on Easter morning. To encourage a deepening of our faith, we are engaged in a four-week continuation of the book we began studying in the season of Advent, "The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus Borg. Borg speaks about the welcoming of the kingdom of God as central to Jesus's mission, and, as a political statement, what led directly to his death by crucifixion. Borg writes: "We don't actually have to do anything to enter the kingdom of God, to dwell in the heart of justice. We are already there. We just have to allow that truth to be the truth at the heart of our lives. . . . Being Christian is both a call and an opportunity. We have the opportunity to become active participants in a vision and strategy that was initiated by Jesus two thousand years ago and still has power today." It is our call, as Christians, to continue to usher in the kingdom of God, where our ethics are those of Jesus, and our political stance is one of compassion, forgiveness, hope and love.



## We are an Easter People And Easter is all about Possibility

The symbol for the Reform Church is the empty cross. It is a strange symbol, really, given that the cross is an instrument of torture. In the times of Jesus, its use was as a deterrent, particularly for those who thought to challenge the status quo of Roman rule. Jesus, not only challenged the oppression of Rome, but that of the leading priests of the temple, resulting in his very public, and painful death by crucifixion. But for Christians, that is not the end of the story, for to fight for the kingdom of God, to stand firm in our belief in the redeeming power of love, always results in a resurrection. We are not called to stay in the pain of Good Friday, but to endure the darkness waiting faithfully for the light. We are not called to dwell in despair, hopelessness, and anger. We are an Easter people. We are called to be unafraid, to endure hardship, to fight our way through our own demons with the divine spirit's strength, knowing that there is always a glorious sunrise waiting for us. Jesus is not in the business of fixing things up. His call is to total transformation through resurrection. May this Easter be a time of transformation and renewed possibility.



## Easter Services

### Palm Sunday Service with Communion

Primrose: 9:15 am

Trinity: 11 am

### Primrose Maundy Thursday Supper and Teaching at Glen and Carol Thompson's Home

5 – 6:30 pm

### Good Friday Services

10:00 am Community Service at Mel Lloyd Centre

7:00 pm Trinity United Church

### Easter Sunday Services

Primrose: 9:15 am

Trinity: 11 am

## Our Easter Poem:

### I Dwell in Possibility by Emily Dickenson

I dwell in Possibility –  
A fairer House than Prose –  
More numerous of Windows –  
Superior – for Doors –  
Of Chambers as the Cedars –  
Impregnable of eye –  
And for an everlasting Roof  
The Gambrels of the Sky –  
Of Visitors – the fairest –  
For Occupation – This –  
The spreading wide my narrow Hands  
To gather Paradise





**Mother's Day Plant and Bake Sale**  
**Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 8 – 11 am at Primrose United Church**

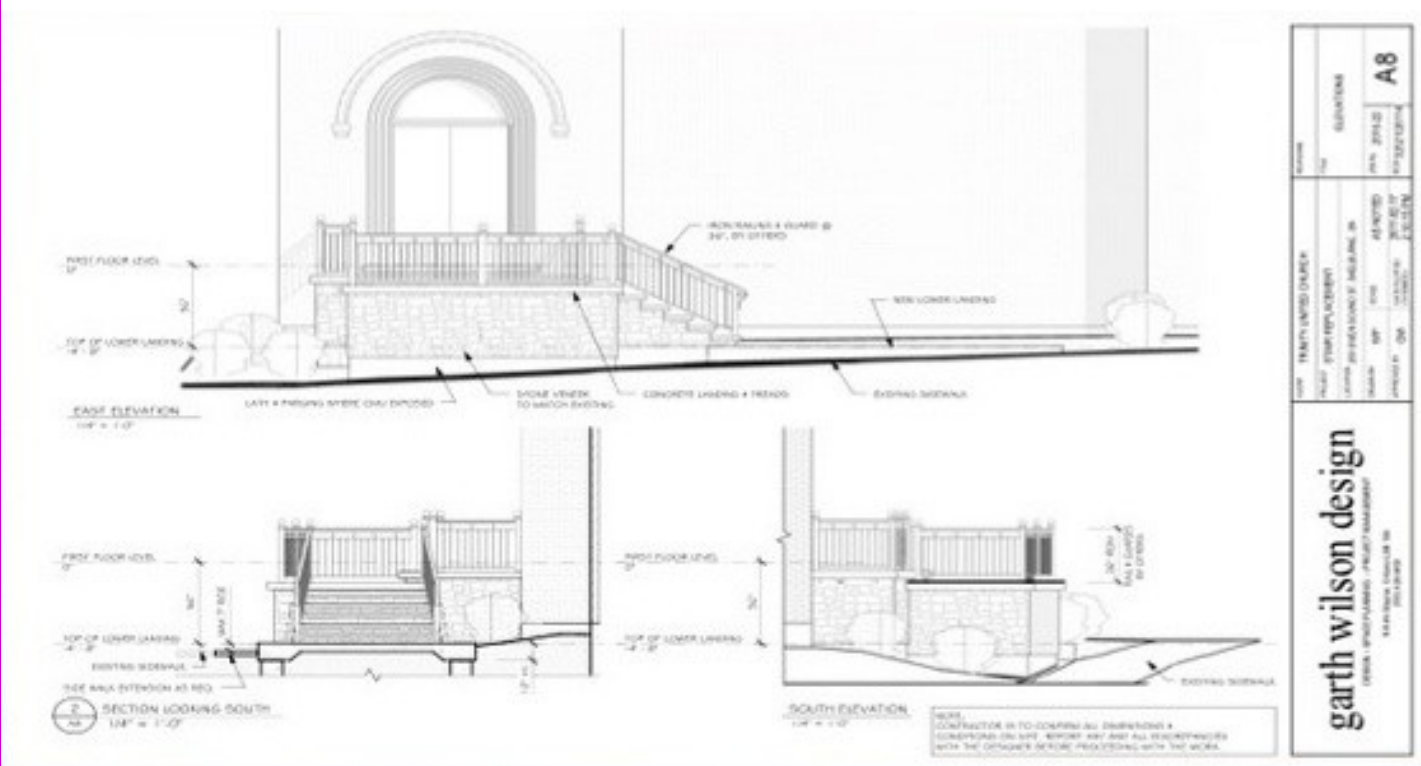
Don't miss out on the joyful morning that is the Primrose United Church's Annual Plant and Bake Sale. You can pick something up for a Mother's Day gift or your own garden. Pre-ordered plants, perennials dug from local gardens, homemade baking, and several craft and food vendors will offer lots to choose from. A cup of complimentary coffee, a friendly chat with friends and neighbours and some time in our meditation garden, will get you off to a wonderful start to the weekend.



If you want to pre-order hanging baskets or flats of annuals, pick up an order form from either of the churches or contact Gail Brown at 519-925- 2397 [gailbrown.pharm@yahoo.ca](mailto:gailbrown.pharm@yahoo.ca). See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

**Space and Spirit – One Step at a Time**

At Trinity's recent annual meeting, Michael Hofman, chair of the property committee, along with his visioning group, revealed the design for the new east entrance to the church. The original southeast stairs held up for over one hundred years, but eventually, wind, rain and salt took their toll, and they became unsafe. The new drawings reveal a wider, more welcoming entrance, with the stairs now flowing to the north onto a large courtyard like area. The stairs could not be replaced in their original way as it was deemed unsafe with the increased traffic and proximity of Owen Sound Street. Steep grades and water lines prevented the stairs being built in a southerly direction. In addition to the replacement of the stairs and railings themselves, new lighting, gardens and either replacement or refurbishing of the front doors will be part of the new look for this prominent side of Trinity. Construction for the new stairs is planned for early May. Michael is heading up the work team, and will be contracting out the work throughout April and May. He is hoping that everything will be in place by fall of 2017. As well as applying for a grant from the Northern Waters Presbytery, Michael's team will be heading up a fundraising initiative – "Space and Spirit: One Step at a Time." So keep a look out for ways you can support this exciting new project at Trinity.





### Let there Be Peace....

Following the shooting at the Mosque in Quebec City, Trinity United, along with friends from Primrose and guests from Trinity Centennial in Rosemont joined together to stand in solidarity and support of our Muslim friends and neighbours. Two wonderful, spirit filled services took place at Trinity on Sun. Feb. 5th. As the Imam said to us that night, we are one people, made from dust and all descended from Adam. On Sun. Feb. 26th, a number of members from the three churches made a return visit to the Mosque in Brampton, joining their members for evening prayers and a lovely dinner. When we get to know our neighbours, we discover that in fact we have more in common than we have differences. Let us seek to continue the dialogue and the relationship.



### From the Chair of Trinity Council.....

Lent has been a busy time in our church leading up to Easter. A time to remember to include God and develop a closer relationship with Him. The book study, *The Heart of Christianity*, by Marcus J. Borg, has provided many of us with an opportunity to rediscover a life of Faith. We have laughed and cried together. We have asked tough questions as we unpack individual histories and beliefs. We have reached out to one another. We have supported one another. We have prayed together.

In our Easter celebrations, let us remember that we are Easter people. We must seek the Kingdom of God in our daily lives. Particularly, in our church lives, let us remember not to condemn and criticize, but resist that temptation. There is no room here for another crucifixion. Borg explains 'Born Again' as dying and rising." It means dying to an old way of being and being born into a new way of being.....a way of being and an identity centred in the sacred, in Spirit, in Christ, in God" page 107.

Two questions many of us are working on include: Where is the Kingdom of God? How can I help? My hope is that the 2017 Trinity United Church Council will base all decisions on the answers to these questions. I believe that our discussions and council business should be direct answers from God-when we listen to God.

Hallelujah! He is risen! Let us demonstrate joy, peace, love. These are the gifts of the Spirit.

Love God. Love one another. Happy Easter.

Ann McAlpine

### Spring Cleanup At Trinity

Sat. Apr. 29th  
2-5 pm with potluck  
supper at 5:00 pm  
Come help clean & tidy and make our  
church welcoming!



**The Blanket Exercise:**  
the Indigenous rights history we're rarely taught



The Blanket Exercise is Coming  
to Trinity May 7<sup>th</sup> after the 11 am Service

The blanket exercise is an engaged teaching tool for sharing the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada. Fifteen years ago, the Aboriginal Rights Coalition worked with Indigenous elders and teachers to develop an interactive way of learning the history most Canadians are never taught. The Blanket Exercise was the result. It is hoped that every single Canadian will take part in this informative and deeply

moving conversation. Trinity has invited Dr. Daisy Radigan, a committed environmentalist and experienced facilitator of this workshop, to speak in the morning service, and to lead the afternoon's activity. A simple lunch will be served between the morning service and the Blanket Exercise, which will be undertaken at 1:15. If you would like to know more about this fascinating learning experience go to:

<http://www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise> This is the first time the Blanket Exercise has been offered to the public in the Shelburne area. We encourage everyone to participate. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has completed the first part of their ongoing work. We, as Canadians, have a responsibility to respond to their findings. The Blanket Exercise is an excellent way to do this. <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=905>

**Save the Date....**  
**Sunday, June 25th**  
**11:00 am - 4:30 pm**



**Primrose United Church**

Sponsors a Meditative Garden Tour  
Visit and stroll through three beautiful gardens  
Join us for afternoon tea  
Cost - \$10.00. tickets will be available at both churches.



Farmer's Market

Trinity is delighted to be partnering with the Shelburne Farmer's Market this year in support of their various initiatives. We will be opening the church for community suppers, children's activities and gatherings in the sanctuary on Thursday afternoon when the market takes over First Avenue right outside our doors. Working within three areas of focus – Community Cooks, Community Kids, Community Spirit – the creative team overseeing the Farmer's Market is full of ideas for 2017.



Come out and support your local farmers, artisans, bakers and makers, and take part in activities for children and adults. Watch for updates and announcements later this spring at <http://www.shelburnefarmersmarket.ca/>

