

Shelburne / Primrose Pastoral Charge

December, 2016

Let There be Peace on Earth  
and Let it Begin with Me

Think Differently  
This Christmas Season

Think of Advent as a Time of Rest. Yes. Seriously.

Advent 3: December 11th : Joy in the Unexpected  
9:15 am Primrose United Church : 11 am Trinity United Church

Advent 4: December 18th: The Angels, Love in the Midst of Uncertainty  
11 am Trinity United Church Only

Think of Christmas as a Time of Renewed Hope in Humanity

December 18th : Primrose Christmas Service of Carols and Story  
7 pm Primrose United Church

December 21st : A Blue Country Christmas  
for those who are apprehensive about Christmas....  
7 pm Trinity United Church

December 24th : Trinity Christmas Eve Family Service  
7 pm Trinity United Church

Trinity Christmas Eve Contemplative Candlelight Service  
9:30 pm Trinity United Church

December 25th: Christmas Morning Service  
10 am Trinity United Church

January 1st: A Wondrous New Year  
10 am Trinity United Church



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

Welcome to the season of waiting, Advent. For many, this is the season of wanting and getting. I appreciate the challenge from Rev. Candice to accept a new approach to our thinking as we wait during Advent. Let's think differently this season. Let's behave differently. Advent is a time of rest, peace and renewed hope.

May we celebrate the teaching, beauty, music and fellowship during worship each and every Sunday morning. May we care for each other in our church and find that renewed hope in humanity sitting right in the pew beside us. Look for it and find it - in our community, country and world.

I extend my thanks to each member of your church council for their dedication to leading their committees and working tirelessly on council. I thank the congregation for your prayers as we work together on your behalf. We are blessed with strong Ministerial leadership at Trinity. Thank you to both Reverends Ann and Candice, who work joyfully to make Trinity a welcoming and happy place to gather with God.

Rest awhile during Advent; may you find true Joy and Peace this Christmas.

Merry Christmas.

With thanks,

*Ann McAlpine*



### **From the Clerk of Session at Primrose....**

On behalf of the Primrose congregation, I would like to say "thank you" to all who supported our fall fund raising events. Both the Bruce Ley and friends concert and the New Horizons banquet were great successes. When the warm weather returns we will concentrate on the Mothers Day plant and bake sale.

We have been busy collecting toothbrushes as our contribution to the Christmas Hamper program. We also had our annual Poinsettia Sunday where after the morning service we delivered plants to our shut-ins and friends.

The evening of Dec. 18th. is our Sunday Candlelight service. This is always well attended so come early to get a good seat.

Carol and I wish you all a safe and blessed holiday season.

*Glen Thompson*

### **A Report from the Search Committee**

Your Pastoral Search Committee thanks everyone who took the time to complete the Ministry and Mission profile survey. Your comments and input helped us to revamp our profile to better reflect who we are. This revised profile will hopefully be posted on the Toronto Conference website early in the new year. There will also be an ad appearing in the January United Church Observer. We are hoping these two initiatives will breath new life into our search for a new minister.



Please pray for this committee as we move forward.

*Glen Thompson,*

Chair of the Pastoral Charge Search Committee.



Our theme this year in the Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge is “Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let it Begin with Me.” World peace is not a political issue, nor an economic one, nor a cultural or social one. It is a spiritual issue. Peace begins within ourselves, and in fact, cannot be born anywhere else but in our own individual hearts in our own particular circumstances.

So, we are trying to THINK DIFFERENTLY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. And we begin by thinking differently about the Christmas story that we hold sacred.

We see Mary as Hope in Things Unseen.

We see Joseph as Peace in the Midst of Turmoil.

We see The Shepherds as Joy in the Unexpected.

We see The Angels as Love in a Time of Uncertainty.

And we dare to see ourselves as midwives of the mystical Christ, opening our hearts to allow God to transform our ordinary lives, elevating them to the extraordinary as we learn to live our everyday lives with compassion.

It is my deepest hope and prayer that this Christmas you will come to know yourself beloved, a son or daughter of the divine spirit, being transformed by love, into love, and thus granting Peace and Goodwill to All People.

May grace abide in all our homes, and in all our hearts, this Christmas season.

*Candice*

*We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation....*

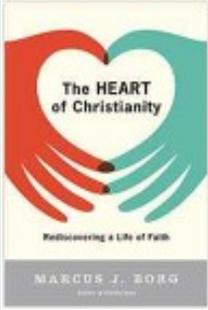
Trinity Council, at its meeting on Nov. 29th reaffirmed their desire to live out the words of the NEW CREED, one of the statements of faith of the United Church of Canada. particular the council would like to draw your attention to the line in which we commit live with respect in Creation.

There are some simple ways that we can live out this commitment at home and in the church....

- Commit to recycling wherever possible
- Reduce or eliminate the use of bottled water
- Eliminate the use of Styrofoam, which is not recyclable
- Use re-usable dishes, and when that isn't possible, then ensure that disposable dishes are recyclable
- Donate used clothing, furnishings and household appliances to organizations that resell or reuse them
- Ensure hazardous products are disposed of properly
- Take old and unusable electronics to recycling depots
- Ensure unused drugs are returned to the drug store for proper disposition

***Make one of your New Years resolutions for 2017 be to live with respect in creation.***





**Study Groups** are currently engaged in discussion of Marcus Borg’s book “The Heart of Christianity” Twenty-four people are participating in the first four weeks of our book study, the last week finishing up on Dec. 18th. We will resume again in February. If you have missed the first part, don’t hesitate to join us then. Let Candice Know.

“In *The Heart of Christianity*, world-renowned Jesus scholar and author of the bestseller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* argues that the essential ingredients of a Christian life—faith, being born again, the kingdom of God, the gospel of love—are as vitally important today as they have always been, even during this time of conflict and change in the church.

Borg wants to show us, as today's thinking Christians, how to discover a life of faith by re-conceptualizing familiar beliefs. Being born again, for example, has nothing to do with fundamentalism, but is a call to radical personal transformation. Talking about the kingdom of God does not mean that you are fighting against secularism, but that you have committed your life to the divine values of justice and love. And living the true Christian way is essentially about opening one's heart—to God, and to others. Above all else, Borg believes with passion and conviction that living the Christian life still makes sense.” (Amazon)



**Year End information...**

2016 has been a fairly successful year for both of our churches financially. That is due to committed volunteers who work hard on fund-raising, but more importantly it is thanks to all who contribute regularly through your gifts to the church.

With this newsletter, you will have received an envelope, which is your invitation to make a year end gift to your church. We rely on your gifts to pay our bills and keep our church going. We thank you for your continued support. Gifts for 2016 will need to be made by Dec. 30th in order to be deposited and recorded in 2016. Thank you for considering the church in your Christmas gift giving.

**2016 Annual Meetings**

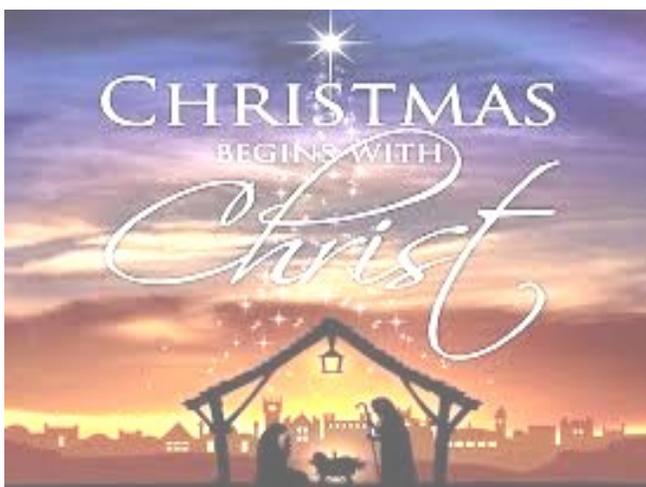
Primrose Feb. 19, 2017  
Trinity Feb. 26, 2017

- Are you concerned for the future of your church?
- Do you have ideas that will help the church to move forward?
- Do you have time and a willingness to serve as a volunteer?
- Are you a leader?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, then your church needs you.

Please volunteer when the nomination folks call, or give your chairperson a call to let them know you are interested in serving. There are leadership opportunities in both our churches just waiting for you!



**Christmas Holiday Office Hours**

The office will be closed on Dec. 26, 27 & 30th.  
Open only 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Dec. 28 & 29th  
Regular Hours will resume on Jan. 3rd.  
Rev. Candice will be away Jan. 6-20th For Pastoral Emergencies during that time, contact Rev. Ann.

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