

NEWS from the PEWS

Trinity Anglican Church, Bradford ON
Epiphanytide — Lent

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Volume 9, number 4

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 4 – annual reports from every ministry/group/committee must be submitted today, to be included in Trinity's Vestry Report for the year 2017. Please email reports to Margaret.

Friday, February 9 – Youth group meets at 7 pm. Contact: Elizabeth Annand,

Tuesday, February 13–Study group, 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. See further information below.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

– 10 am Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (*said*)

– 7 pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (*with music*)

– **Krafty Knitters, 2 to 4 pm.** Everyone is welcome to come and knit or crochet, or learn one of these crafts, and to enjoy fellowship and a cuppa. Contact: Anne Silvey,

Thursday, February 15 – Study group, 2 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, February 21 – Ecumenical Lenten Series begins. Please note the information and schedule provided below.

Sunday, February 25 – ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING following the service. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

At least one adult from every family is requested to attend the meeting. To be eligible to vote, one must be 16 years old or more, have been at Trinity for more than 3 months, and attended at least 3 worship services in the past year. A page listing eligible voters is available in the Upper Room (narthex). If your name is not included in the list, and you believe that it should be, a letter may be written to the parochial tribunal as mentioned on the page. Sunday School will be provided by Elizabeth during the meeting so that parents may attend the meeting.

Wednesday, February 28– Advisory Board Meeting, 7:28 pm. Interested parishioners are welcome to sit in on any advisory board meeting. Minutes of past meetings are available on the table under the bell tower or from the secretary.

Wednesday, March 14 – Trinity's turn to host the Ecumenical Lenten Series service, 7 pm. Please come and invite your friends and neighbours. Friends from various other denominations will be joining us here in our church for this service.

CHURCH NEWS

Sadly we announce the passing of David Read on January 25. The visitation will be Sunday, February 4 at Dixon Garland Funeral Home in Markham, and the service will be in Trinity Church, Bradford Monday, February 5, at 2 pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Sharon, his son Matthew and grandson Quinn and their family.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Beth Ferkranus (nee Dewhirst) in early January following an unexpected short illness, at 43 years of age. Beth grew up at Trinity Church, Bradford and attended here regularly for many years before moving to Newmarket. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Derek, daughters Emma and Isabelle, parents Dick & Gretchen Dewhirst, sister Kate, fellow triplets Kit and Erin, and their families. A Celebration of Life was held January 6 at St. Paul's Church, Newmarket with Fr. Dan Graves officiating.

We regret to announce the recent passing of Gary Pollett. Gary has ploughed the snow at the church for a number of winters, but was unable to continue this season due to illness. Our sympathy to his wife Louise and family.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ecumenical Lenten Series – 2018

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Again this year Trinity Church is participating in the Ecumenical Lenten Series, with a service being held on 5 Wednesday evenings during Lent at a different church each week, in the style of that denomination, and with the speaker representing a church of another denomination. What a wonderful opportunity to join with our Christian brothers and sisters, and to see how we all celebrate our same God. Light refreshments will follow each of the services. All are Welcome! Here is the schedule:

February 21 - Holland Marsh Christian Reformed Church, 18935 Dufferin St, Newmarket. Speaker, Pastor Kent Nielsen, Green Valley Alliance Church.

February 28 - St. Catherine of Alexandria Byzantine Catholic Church, 56 Hearn St, Bond Head. Speaker, Pastor Tunde Igboke, The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Light House Parish

March 7 - Bradford United Church, 66 Barrie St, Bradford. Speaker, Revd. Dr. Stan Walker, St. John's Presbyterian Church.

March 14 - Trinity Anglican Church, 62 Church St., Bradford. Speaker, Pastor Tim Walker, Bradford Baptist Church.

March 21 - Bradford Baptist Church, 3224 Sideroad 10, Bradford. Presenters, Jodi Greenstreet, Executive Director Cross Trainers Canada and Alanna Story (Indianapolis, IN).

From Rev. Dana

We will soon be in the season of Lent, when we are encouraged to address our spiritual lives and health, as we prepare for Easter and our annual remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Now, is a good time to think about how you want to observe Lent.

For many of us it can be very challenging to decide on a Lenten discipline, what we want to take on or abstain from each year. In the past, there was an emphasis on giving things up for Lent, most commonly meat, alcohol, desserts or chocolate. These traditional Lenten abstinences were intended to remind us of Jesus suffering, and invite us to join him in his 40 days in the desert. This was one of the reasons for Pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday, to use up all the lard that would not be used during Lent.

At other times, giving something up during Lent was about giving up some luxury we enjoy, instead giving the money we would have spent on it to the work of the Church, often some outreach initiative. You may remember from years gone by the coin boxes children were given or the Lenten Offering Folders.

A number of years ago there was a shift toward taking on something rather than giving something up, taking on those disciplines that would draw us closer to Jesus or help to strength or encourage us in our faith. Some people commit to reading a specific book or books of the bible, a Lenten devotional or dedicating extra time to prayer. If you are looking for resources for a specific discipline please speak to me and I might be able to point you in the right direction.

Personally, I prefer to observe Lent with a mix of giving something up and taking on some new challenge that will draw me closer to Jesus. Some of my Lenten disciplines in the past have included on the one hand, no meat Fridays, no coffee, no fast food, no chocolate and on the other hand, reading the books of Acts, Revelation to John and daily prayer walking. One of benefits I have found from Lenten disciplines is that doing them for the 40 days of Lent can lead to incorporating them into my ongoing Christian journey.

I have often found it helpful to have a partner or be part of group when it came to Lenten disciplines. Having a partner or group helps with accountability, and we can share the experience and what we are learning from the experience with each other. You will read this "News from the Pews" about the Tuesday evening study, "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John," which you could join us for or do on your own.

A few final words of wisdom, whatever you give up or take on, be gracious with yourself. It is easy to beat ourselves up when we fail, when we give into temptation or when we miss a day or fail to do something we have committed to. We are all human, and we will fail at times, but the important thing is to keep trying, to not give up because we mess up once or twice.

May this Lent be for you a strengthening and an encouraging time as you draw closer to God, experiencing His gracious and life-giving love made manifest in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Study Groups

The Tuesday evening group meets at 7:30 pm and will be using the "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" study, beginning February 13. Anyone is welcome to join whether they watch the videos or do the daily reflections. Please see the Lenten Study article for more details. Prayer journals will be available at the February 13 meeting or speak to Rev. Dana.

Thursday afternoons' meets at 2 pm, and we will be continuing with our Lectionary Study looking at the readings for upcoming Sundays. Copies of the readings for the coming Sunday are always available in the Upper Room for the coming week's study if you want to read them ahead, but also feel free to just drop in if you want to gain insight into the Sunday readings.

Lenten Study

Archbishop Johnson is inviting parishes and individuals to join him in a Lenten Study, “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John,” which explores words of John the Evangelist (The Gospel According to John and First Letter of John). The study comes from the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) an Anglican Monastic order, and invites us into deeper relationship with God. John the Evangelist reminds us over and over of God’s deep love for humanity, out of which He sends Jesus His Son into the world. Through studying John’s words this Lent we are invited to come to know and abide in God’s love.

This study begins with an introduction the Sunday before Lent, February 11, invites us to meditate or reflect on the words of a daily verse from John. In a short video each day, one of the SSJE Brothers will comment upon the daily scripture verse, share about his own relationship with Jesus and suggest possibilities for further reflection. There is also a beautiful 60 page prayer journal with the daily verse and space to respond through words, images or however the Spirit leads you. There are questions in the introduction that can help to reflect on the daily passages. The study group will be exploring the weekly themes with additional questions and discussion.

You can sign up to receive the daily videos by email at <http://meetingjesusinjohn.org> . Prayer journals are available from Rev. Dana or can be downloaded from the same website (or ask Rev. Dana to make you a copy if you are technologically challenged).

The Tuesday evening Study group will be using this study for Lent, starting Tuesday, February 13. Anyone is welcome to join whether they watch the videos or do the daily reflections

An update on the Syrian family we supported, from Bill White

Al-Shteive Family Thriving in Canada

In September 2015, we were all horrified to see the heartbreaking pictures of 3 year-old Alan Kurdi, washed up on a beach in Turkey. He and his family were fleeing the devastation of the civil war in Syria, and he drowned when he fell into the Mediterranean Sea. Like many, the people of Trinity felt we needed to do something for the millions of people little Alan came to symbolize.

Within weeks, three members of the Trinity Congregation met with our partners from Bradford United Church, Bond Head United Church, and Holy Martyrs of Japan Roman Catholic Parish, and other members of the Bradford Interfaith Ministerial group. Together, we formed BRIDG – the Bradford Refugee Interdenominational Group. By November we were matched with a family, and with help from the Town of Bradford West-Gwillimbury, had found a home rent-free for two years. Donations poured in – cash, clothing, furniture, and everything needed for a family of eleven to start anew.

With the help of thousands of volunteer hours, the Al-Shteive family has flourished. They were joined by a tenth child, Reyad in February 2016, and are making good independent decisions: Ali and eldest son Mohammed are working in Markham, a job they found on their own with hours which let them attend school daytime – Ali in English as a second language classes, and Mohammed with his brothers at Bradford High School. Another brother hopes to be an auto mechanic or welder and is working at a local mechanic shop. All of the older children have summer jobs. The younger children attended summer camp, and are playing soccer, and speak English with more ease every day. The family has purchased a van themselves, and chosen their next home with the help of friends they made in the community. In June they will move out of their first home in Canada and into a home they are paying for, themselves.

When we set out on this journey two years ago, we said the measure of success would be when our sponsored refugee family were able to make decisions and follow them through, independently in their new

home. The Al-Shteixe family has flourished through their own hard work and the generosity of the BWG community. So many members and friends of Trinity Church have given their time and talents to help them grow: waking up early to drive Ali to work, collecting donations, attending events, and upholding them in your prayers. Your prayers have been realized through the grace of God in the success of this family. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytdHEJNuf8M> for a brief video on the family's success.

Walking with our new Canadians has been a privilege and an adventure. Thank you all for your efforts.

Thanks to Dora Weatherill for donating the fabric and Carol McPherson for sewing new curtains for the Vestry. Be sure to take a look at Carol's beautiful handiwork.

If you have done so already, please pick up your 2017 official tax receipt and/or your 2018 offering envelopes from the Upper Room.

Our new dishwasher was ordered in January and if not installed by the time this newsletter goes out, it soon will be! New taps have been installed in the kitchen as well.

If you do not currently receive the monthly Anglican Journal newspaper, please speak with Margaret, the secretary, to be added to their mailing list. This paper is free of charge to all families in Anglican parishes.

Rev. Dana and Stewart spend 15 minutes in prayer, in the church, from 9 to 9:15 am Sunday mornings. Parishioners are welcome to come and pray before the service as well.

Do you have an occasion to celebrate? Our main room downstairs may be rented for special occasions for \$100 a day, or part thereof. Insurance is mandatory and may be easily purchased through the Diocese's insurance company at a very reasonable rate, starting at about \$35. A recent change of insurance provider has resulted in less cost and an easier process for obtaining insurance! For rental information or to book the room, please contact Margaret, the secretary.

Woodwork around the window over the altar will be repainted and a new, clear outer panel will be installed to protect the stained glass window. It was hoped that this work would have been done in January, but it will happen in early Spring. This will finish the window work that began in 2017. The next project along this line will be covering various sections of fascia with aluminum, and fixing up the woodwork around the stained glass windows. This work will be done in the future, as we are able, but for now the most dire window repairs have been taken care of.

"Welcome Folders" are available in the Upper Room (narthex) on the table near the top of the stairs for newcomers or anyone interested in information about Trinity Church, or the Anglican church in general.

The Lift: please remember that several of our parishioners are ready and willing to help anyone use the lift. When we have events, receptions or funerals at the church, and you spot any visitors who may appreciate using the lift, please bring it to their attention. Sheryl MacPhail, Art Holden, Lorna Oldreive, Meg White, Barrie or Margaret Schroeder, Ann Spalding, Sandra or Fred Longthorne, and others are willing and able to help.

Donations to the 2nd Hand Shop

Thank-you for your generous donations of good items to the 2nd Hand Shop!
Our successful little shop serves many people in the community and is a great support for our church too.

We happily accept the following items (in very good condition, clean, complete, and working well):

- In-style, in-season clothing and accessories
- Useful household items
- Decorative items
- Toys
- Small appliances
- Jewellery

Kindly do not donate the following items (they seldom sell leaving our volunteers, mainly seniors, to dispose of them):

- Computers, TV's and electronics
- Cookbooks; and large or heavy books
- Old books, text books
- Sets of dishes
- Large, bulky, or heavy items
- Anything cracked, chipped, incomplete or worn-looking

**Drop in and see us any Thursday or Saturday morning.
Thank-you!**

Rev. Dana's day off is Monday of each week. She may be reached at the church office, 905 775 2200. In case of crisis or death, you may call her at 289-383-1036.

Please check the notice board on the wall just inside the south oak doors where dates for our next upcoming events are posted!

February Finance Feature:

This month's feature is good news! Thank-you, parishioners, for your loyal support during 2017! We ended the year on a positive note, having met and exceeded our financial goal. We were able to replace and/or paint a number of windows, complete the bell tower restoration, amongst other things.

You can follow Trinity Church on Facebook!

When a parishioner is hospitalized, it would be helpful if the patient, a family member, or close friend would let us know. A visit or call, according to the patient's wishes, will be arranged.

Pre-arranging a funeral or a celebration of life service can be helpful to a family at a stressful time. If you wish to leave your final wishes and instructions in a file in the church office, please speak with the priest.

Service Schedule

1st to 4th Sundays of the month, 10 am: Holy Eucharist (BAS)

5th Sunday of the month (when applicable), 10 am: Holy Communion (BCP)

1st Wednesday of month, 8:35 pm: Service of Compline, with anointing for healing and wholeness

1st Sunday of month, 2 pm: Eucharist & Hymn Sing, Bradford Valley Seniors' Residence

The next issue of "News from the Pews" will be Sunday, March 4, 2018.

Church Secretary and Organist: Margaret Schroeder, margaret22sch@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Sheryl MacPhail, Meghan White, Lorna Oldreive, Art Holden

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