

Trinity Topics



In this edition, enjoy photos submitted for Correna's Earth Day project.

Photo above by Sally Cuddy.

*We are a
compassionate
and
affirming
community
that nurtures
and
celebrates
spiritual
growth.*



Beyond

By Rev. Dr. Wayne Menard

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1949) was German Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who wrote about Christianity's role in the secular world. Consider what he wrote to Eberhard Bethge Tegel Prison in April 1944:

"I find all this talk about human limits questionable. (Can even death, since people hardly fear it now, or sin, which people hardly even comprehend now, still be called genuine 'limits?') I always have the feeling we are merely fearfully trying to save room for God; I would rather speak of God at the center than at the limits, in strength rather than in weakness, and thus in human life and goodness rather than in death and guilt.

As far as limits are concerned, I think it best simply to remain silent and to leave the unresolvable unresolved. The belief in resurrection is not the 'solution' to the problem of death. The 'beyond' of God is not the 'beyond' of our cognitive capacity. Epistemological transcendence has nothing to do with God's transcendence. God is 'beyond' our lives. The church is found not where human capacity fails, at the limits, but rather in the middle of the village. This is the sense of the Old Testament, and we still do not read the New Testament enough from the perspective of the Old Testament."

I believe Bonhoeffer is calling us to engage in our community and not see ourselves as merely sitting on the periphery, looking in, waiting to see if God is somehow involved, or not. Yes, the resurrection is an important part of our faith tradition, but it is not the solution to a problem we have been experiencing nor is it the answer to the question, **"What would God have us do, here, in this place and in this time?"** Bonhoeffer is suggesting that our way of knowing needs to remain rooted in our understanding of God as we experience the Divine in community. Moving from this world to the next in death is a result, not a goal of our relationship with God.

continued on page 2

Trinity is evaluating its relationship to the larger community. We have chosen to focus on four themes: **social justice, innovative worship, music, and spiritual/Christian education.**

All these turn us toward the centre of the village where God is most active and where our attention is drawn, each and every moment. Our focus is not the “beyond” of death but the vigour and vitality of life as it percolates in our midst. We are a village church, not the church of the ascension, resurrection, divine retribution, or the church of perpetual motion—or any other future event that may or may not have something to do with who we are as a church. We are a church that has chosen to witness within our community, to bring light where there is darkness, and yes, hope when there seems to be no hope left in the world.

We are only limited by how and when we choose to allow God to move among us. If we believe that God should remain on the fringes,

available to us only when we make room for such a person, then surely we will fail. However, should we choose to make God’s concerns our own and see our strength in a God that occupies the center of our village, we will surely succeed.

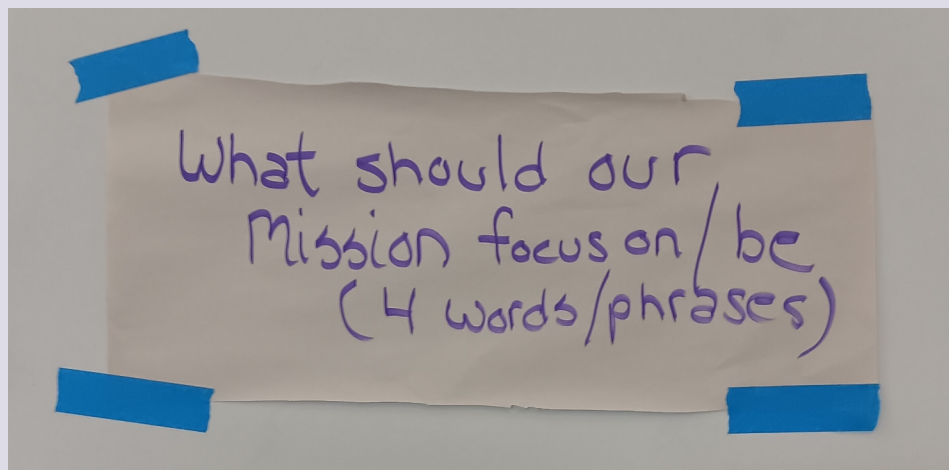
We do not encounter God at the limits of human understanding, forced to give over our thinking to the “mystery” that is God. God meets us in the heat of the moment, when life is most keenly felt. God meets us in the concerns of those who look to the church for understanding, guidance, and dare I say love.

I don’t know about you, but I chose to be part of a God-loved village. Death and resurrection will surely take care of themselves, despite our best efforts to beat the odds.

Pax,

Wayne

A year ago, we asked the question.
Now we have the answer.



- Social Justice
- Innovative Worship
- Music
- Spiritual / Christian Education

Sustainability

Council has accepted with thanks the final report of the Sustainability Committee. Thank you to the team for guiding us to this point in our quest for a sustainable future. However, the work to achieve a sustainable environment for Trinity is just beginning.

Through consultations with the congregation, we identified our four areas of focus, they are: Social Justice, Music, Worship, Spiritual Education. The next step is for council is to review options for moving us forward focused, on our ministry priorities.

Please stand by for more opportunities to be involved as we reach out for leadership and support to build the sustainable future that supports what Trinity values.

Thank you Sustainability Committee!

Ian MacKay

Dave Gibb

Mark Cuddy

Perry Calderwood

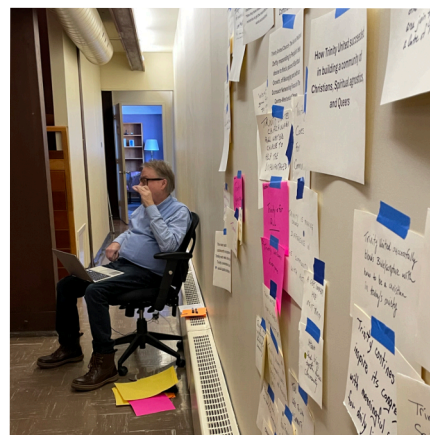
Sabrina Nemis

Sorin Zaharescu-Constantin

Virginia MacLatchy

Mary Myles

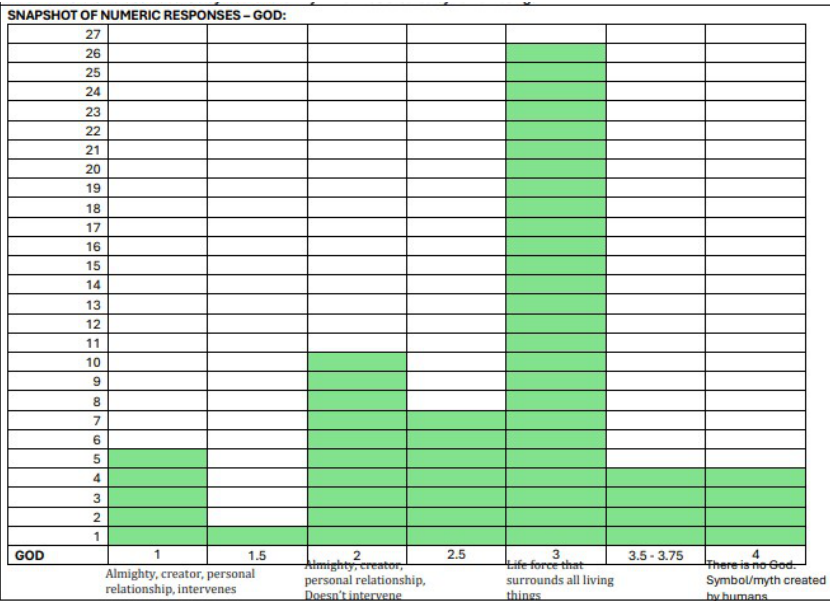
Stephanie Coward-Yaskiw from EOORC



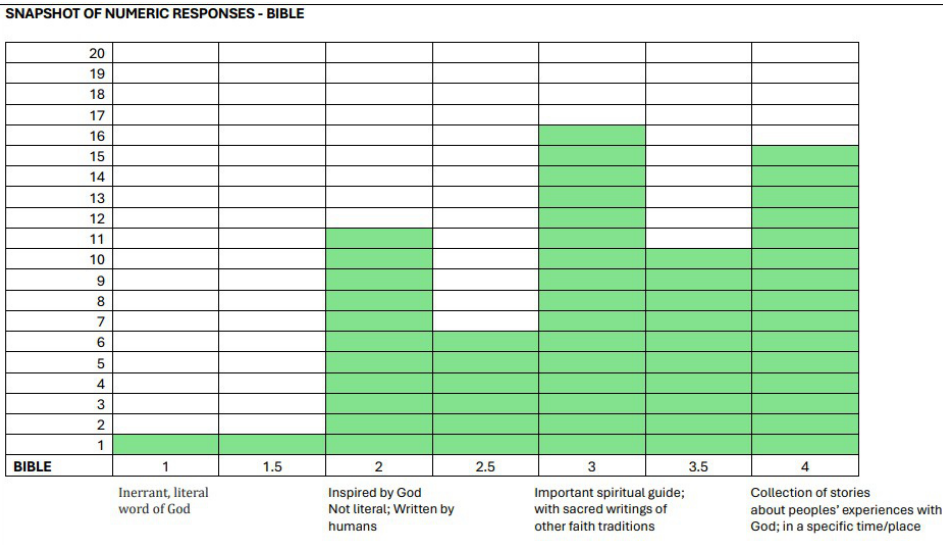
Sustainability continued

As we look ahead at how to live out our priorities, it's useful to look back on our [survey results](#) from 2024.

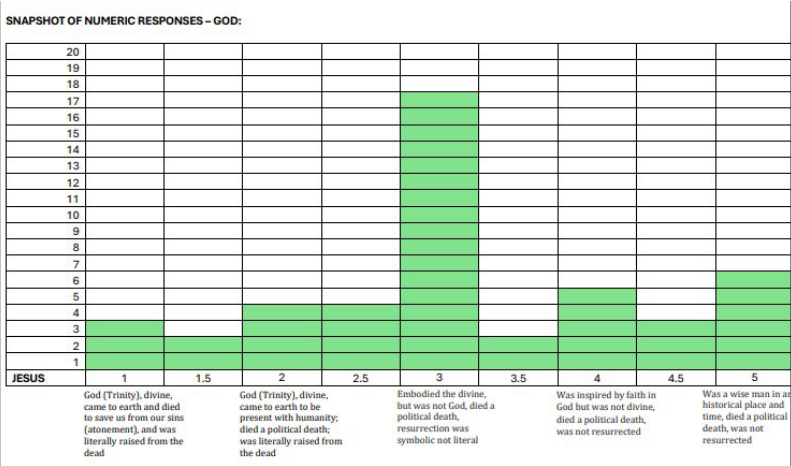
How do we think of God?



How do we view the Bible?



What do we believe about Jesus?



Worship Corner

By Rosemary Gibb and John Comfort

Our committee always appreciates the efforts of those who beautify the sanctuary and those who diligently look after the audio/visual aspects of the service. We welcome Sandy Pember to the committee as a new member. Sandy was introduced to us by Correna and Alex.

Donna Hawkes has been working hard to bring excellent music to our services. We have regularly been treated to gorgeous flute music, courtesy of Paula Conlon. Other musical treats included Anna Afghan on her violin, Courtney Sladden's lovely solo, and the Cantiamo Women's Choir. Superb! On Palm Sunday, our choir was pleased to present the Cantata, "No Greater Love" conducted by Jackie Hawley of Cantiamo Choirs.

Easter Sunday was very special, with daffodils and tulips, and a large congregation. So wonderful to have all those children at the front taking part in Communion.

We are fortunate to have Rev. Wayne Menard at the Trinity helm. His cheerful personality, peppered with lots of humour, his progressive theology and genuine acceptance of differing beliefs and interpretations, and his ability to connect so easily with us, make Trinity a very welcoming place.

Wayne, we hope you and Marie are as happy with us as we are with you.



Thank you to all who helped with the **PIE Day** service.

So much generosity in baking and donating many delicious pies that were enjoyed by all.

Thanks also to Grant for creating the PRIDE light from found elements. It was a wonderful way for us to celebrate Trinity's commitment to being an Affirming congregation.

PIE signifies Public, Intentional and Explicit celebration of the inclusion of LGBTQ2IA+ people in Affirming Congregations across Canada.



Sewer Troubles

By Mike Velichka,

The sewer lines at Trinity have been an issue during all of my time at Trinity, but the situation has worsened in recent years. The problem is that bathroom tissue builds up where the sewer lines from the three basement washrooms converge into the main line that runs beneath the floor in the Carson Room and then out of the building. This used to happen once a year or so, but recently a service call to clear the line was needed monthly.

In 2008, we fed a camera into the sewer line to investigate the issue. It showed sags in the line at several locations. Given the recent frequency of issues, a camera was again deployed to locate the problem areas and to mark the exact path of the sewer using a transmitter on the camera and detector above the floor.

The issue needed to be addressed. We cut the concrete floor exposed the sag areas in the Carson Room and where the three lines converge in the hall. We expected to see obvious sags in the line, but there were none. There were no other

obvious problem except the full length of the line did not have sufficient slope and was level instead of sloped in several areas.

The company that clears the sewer lines and did the camera work also does our plumbing. They were also surprised to see that the issue was the original grading of the sewer line. We contracted with them to replace the sewer line in the areas we had dug out. The best they could do was maximize the available slope and remove any level areas.

Overall, there was not much change. I tested the sewers and there continued to be some buildup of bathroom tissue. This could be cleared by manual flushing of the lines, but this would be impractical over time, so an automatic flushing system was installed. Using a timer designed for lawn irrigation, water is now automatically turned on twice a day for 10 minutes to clear the sewer line. This seems to have solved the problem. We will continue to monitor the lines to ensure the issue is resolved.



Have you thanked a
Property Committee
member lately?

This is the kind of ...
they have to deal
with.



Imagine a World Without the Need for Charity

By Pam Sheehan, Trinity Justice Committee

Though this may be hard to imagine, we all remember these words from John Lennon in 1971:

Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can,
No need for greed or hunger, a brotherhood of man.
Imagine all the people, sharing all the world....

We live in a world where charity is still very much needed. One definition of charity is, “generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering.” Today, many of our brothers and sisters would not survive without the generosity of strangers—strangers like us here at Trinity.

Jesus showed us the path to follow 2000 years ago. He did what was practically needed, healing the sick and feeding the poor. But He also threw over the tables of the tax collectors in the temple in anger to protest the corrupt systems of his time. He died partly because he challenged the power structures he found around him. Jesus was a true justice warrior. Sadly those same power structures remain with us today.

Imagine a world where billionaires get together to “fix” Africa. A million wells are drilled, children are vaccinated, schools and hospitals are built, and crops flourish in the ground with stable irrigation systems. Communities finally become self-sustaining. While today charity is keeping many alive, that alone does not and never will result in permanent solutions for many in our world of plenty.

Harold remembers his family receiving a Christmas hamper from the church. At the time, his mother had suddenly become a single parent with seven children at a time when no social services were available. The hamper was welcome but he remembers a sense of shame associated with this gift. The donor might have a good feeling from the donation, but a family’s sense of pride, of being able to look after themselves, can be a casualty.

Over the years The Trinity Justice Committee has tried to change systems that keep some in our society in a cycle of challenge and poverty. Justice work also tries to protect and sustain God’s beautiful world for our children and grandchildren. Such work can often feel daunting and never-ending, but as a church, we never give up.

Today, let us imagine a world where the need for charity has finally faded into history. In such a world, all God’s children live in equality and peace. In these times it’s hard to keep imagining, but perhaps the many hands here at Trinity will slowly bend the arc towards the good.

Let us therefore continue our important ministry here at Trinity, together.



Someday we may have a world without charity, but not yet.

Above is about 1/7 of the goods donated to Centre 507.

Below is the train full of helpful items for the Caldwell Community.



Earth Day Every Day



By Virginia MacLatchy

Although Earth Day, April 22, has passed, the United Church's New Creed reminds us that we are called "to live with respect in Creation." Every day needs to be Earth Day! Certain issues, such as climate change, seem to have fallen off the political radar in the U.S. and to a slightly lesser degree in Canada in recent months.

What can we do?

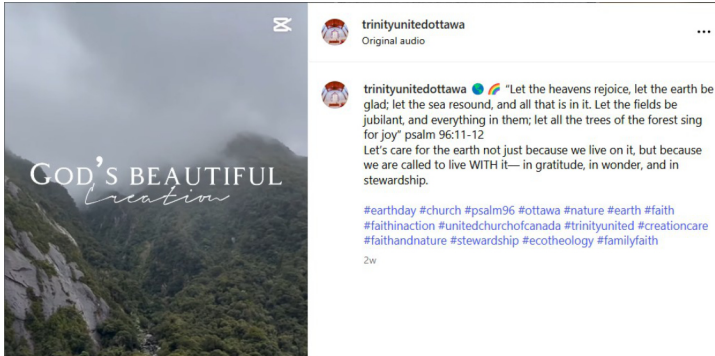
- Stay informed! With the focus on preserving our Canadian sovereignty, some proposed initiatives could exacerbate climate change. New pipelines or extension of pipelines in Canada have been proposed. Would this encourage a greater use of fossil fuels, not to mention the environmental impact of building the pipeline? Would it be better to invest more in renewable energy projects and encourage people to support these?
- Subscribe to environmental watchdogs' postings: David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defence, Ecology Ottawa, Ottawa Riverkeeper, to name a few.
- Participate in targeted campaigns such as https://www.buildingbetterschools.ca/climate_change.
- Support local suppliers and vendors. This helps the climate and sovereignty!
- Consider what will happen to items when we are finished with them when making purchasing decisions. For example, a Canadian company sells toothbrushes with re-usable aluminum handles and replaceable plastic brush heads that can be mailed back for recycling.
- Use green bins or compost, if feasible.
- Re-use or re-purpose.
- Donate to charities like the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and the Trinity Bazaar.
- Check out the [City of Ottawa Waste Explorer](#) for where to donate or recycle.
- Participate in hazardous waste donation days. The next one is on Saturday, May 24 at the Rideau Carleton Casino. Here is the [full schedule of dates](#).
- Electronic waste can be dropped off at the Trail Road Landfill during the week and on some Saturdays at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre. The [Waste Explorer](#) can help you find sites for specific items.
- Participate in the City of Ottawa's [Zero Waste Challenge](#).
- Participate in clean-up efforts. The 'Spring Cleaning the Capital' initiative ended on May 3, but [Adopt-a-Park/Adopt-a-Road](#) is available year round.
- Avoid creating litter and clean up any you find. Recently, a neighbour volunteer cleaned up the winter debris under the church's hedge for us!
- Join shoreline clean-ups. Visit [Ottawa Riverkeeper](#) for dates.

Let's take the necessary action to sincerely live with respect in creation.

Earth Day Every Day continued

Correna is doing a great job of enhancing our presence on social media. The Earth Day videos were beautiful and reached a lot of viewers. Thanks to her, and to all of you who submit videos and photos.

Click on the image to see the Earth Day video.



Find us on social media



Did you know?

Trinity has Green Policies

BAN ON USE OF BOTTLED WATER

We have had a ban on the use of bottled water in the church for nearly twenty years. On November 28, 2006, Trinity's Council declared Trinity to be a bottled water free zone.

Furthermore, at its March 26, 2019 meeting, Trinity Council established three more green policies:

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

We promote fair trade products through all purchases, wherever possible, including the coffee we serve.

WASHABLE OR COMPOSTABLE DISHES, CUTLERY

We use washable dishes and cutlery or compostable products for all church events and break times, and encourage user groups also to do so.

RECYCLED OR FSC CERTIFIED PAPER

We use recycled and/or FSC certified paper for all office requirements and janitorial supplies, wherever possible.

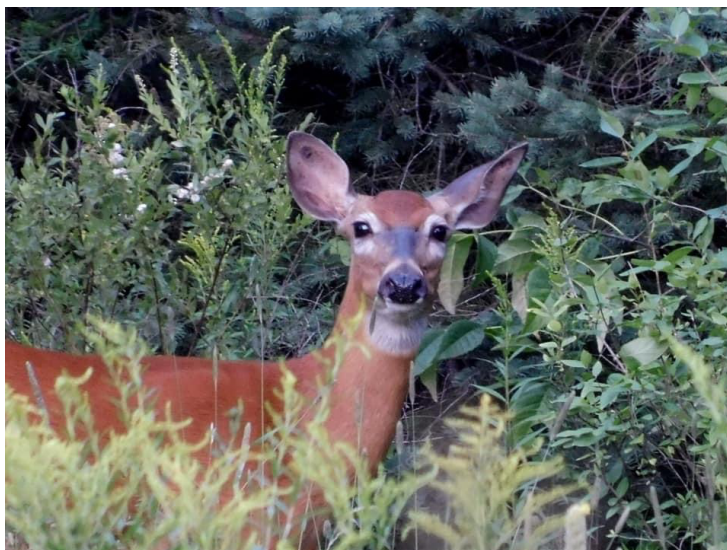


Photo courtesy of Sally Cuddy

Trinity Refugee Committee

By Mike Velichka

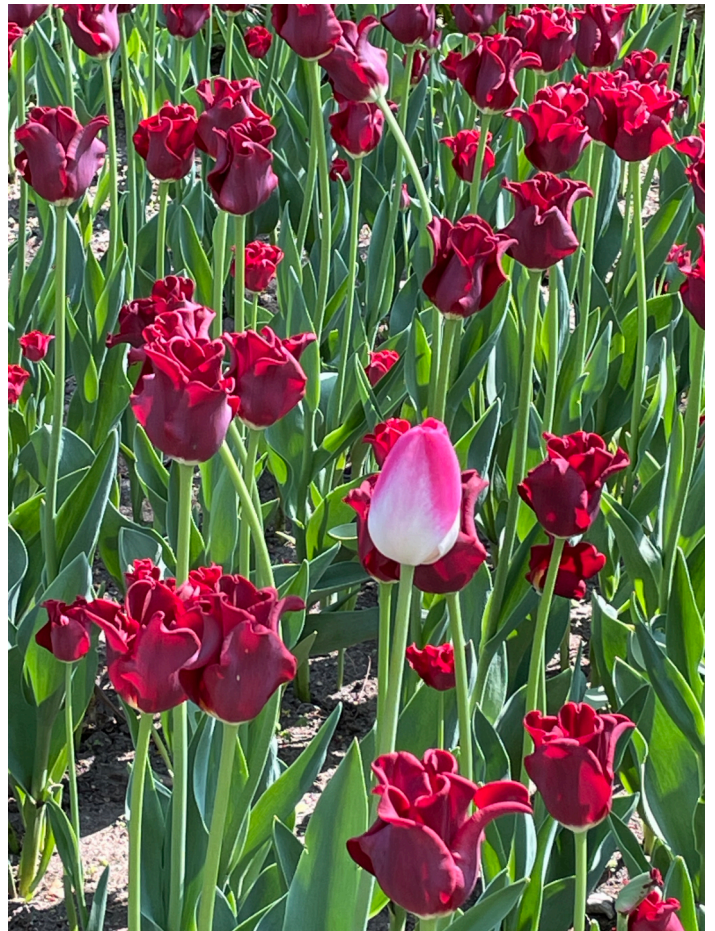
The refugee sponsorship process can be painstakingly slow. It's difficult to be patient when we know the safety issues faced by refugees on an ongoing basis. That said, our committee is happy to report that the application for "Beth" has been submitted, and the application for "Hope" should be submitted soon.

Both Beth and Hope cannot live and express their gender identity for fear of their personal safety. The threat of persecution varies from harassment, to assault, to death. Hope recently attended the funeral of friend who was subject to a violent death for being part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Group members maintain regular communication with the applicants through WhatsApp. Hope continues to actively assist other refugees and provide training programs. She is also a dedicated and proud gardener, using a small plot of land that a friend has allowed her to use. She harvests vegetable crops, including maize, potatoes, peas, and beans, and she recently planted 110 banana plants! Some of the harvest is used for sustenance, and some is sold at market. Hope shares many photos of her training and gardening activities.

Beth resides at a Safe House funded by several organizations. One of the primary indirect funders was USAID, but with funding cut off by the new government in the USA, changes need to be made to address the shortfall. A new Safe House will be opened soon, which will include a plot of land, from which they plan to grow vegetable crops for sustenance and sale. Beth will likely move to this new location and participate in the gardening practices.

Beth and Hope are beautiful people; they are caring, thoughtful and appreciative. We patiently await the application process, with hope that the first will arrive in about a year's time. Please pray with us for their safe arrival into our community.



Thanks to the diligent work of the Trinity Refugee Committee, Beth and Hope may be in Canada to enjoy next year's tulips in bloom. Let us pray that it be so.

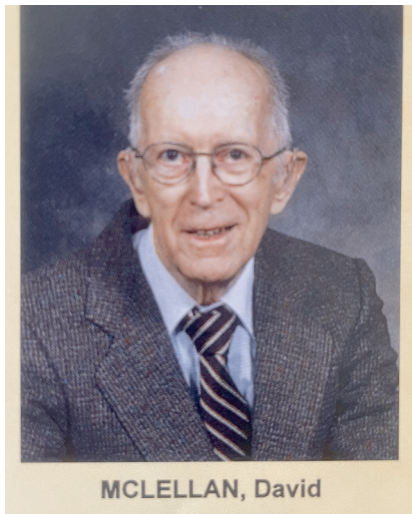
A Remembrance: On the 100th Anniversary

By Arlene Smith



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” —Matthew 5:9

This summer on June 10 and the Sundays thereabouts, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Church. This summer on June 10 I will remember someone else: David McLellan.



MCLELLAN, David

I think of him because he was always proud to proclaim that he shared a birthday with the United Church of Canada. He, too, was born on June 10, 1925.


I remember him also as I do this work because he and his wife Jean were the editors of *Trinity Topics* for many years. They produced the newsletter six times a year, and they did it the old-fashioned cut-and-paste way. What dedication!

When I think back on David, I cannot help but recall one other memory. It was during time of conflict. There was a congregational meeting. People spoke opposing points of view with vehemence and some anger. And then David rose from his place in a pew at the back of the sanctuary. In his calm, quiet voice, in his usual measured way, he spoke. I don't recall his exact words, I just remember that when he stopped speaking and sat down again, there was silence. With his words, the anger and animosity had dissipated from the room.

“He's a peacemaker,” I thought to myself.


I hope it's a fitting thing that I'm remembering David on this 100th anniversary of an incredible church. May we as our single congregation and as the national church be deep, bold and daring as the slogan suggests, but may we also be peacemakers. David McLellan would love that.

Visit the [United Church of Canada](https://www.unitedchurch.ca) website for more information about our 100 years.



National Centennial Service

Join us on June 8 for the national Centennial Worship Service



Children's Activity Pages

Colouring Pages with stories commemorating Changemakers in the Church



Give to the Centennial Legacy Campaign

Your legacy can be a bold and vibrant church for the future!

Trinity Jubilee Foundation



By Rosemary Gibb, President, TJF

TJF Mandate: Improving health, education and self-sufficiency in the world.

The TJF board thought you would be interested in seeing who was on the board back in 2005. Take a guess before you look at the names.

Our TJF fundraising campaign this spring brought in **\$2220**. Many thanks to those able to donate.

**Donations to TJF for 2025 can be made at any time up to the end of the year.
Receipts distributed in January.**



Back Row left to right: Alex McKeague, Stuart McMartin, Allan Brown, Brian Hartley, Bill Hamilton, John Comfort

Front Row left to right: Pam Sheehan, Debra Maher, Sue Taylor, Judy McLaren, Sylvia Barrow

The Plant and Bake Sale was a huge success!

We raised an additional \$3,150, and counting.

Thank you!



Visitor Forms

Thank you to Courtney Sladden for designing our new Visitor Forms. They are available for people to either provide us with contact information on site or scan a QR code to complete the form online. If you see someone new, ask them if they would like a form. (Try it yourself too!)



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
1099 MAITLAND AVENUE
OTTAWA, ON K2C 2B8
613-225-3627
office@trinityunitedottawa.ca

Welcome!

First, welcome and thank you for joining us at Trinity United today. We're glad you are here.

If you're interested in learning more about Trinity or connecting to our church community, please fill out this card and hand it to a volunteer or drop it into the offering plate. Alternatively, scan the code to complete the form online.

We look forward to seeing you again!



Scan this code to complete the form online.

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____

My preferred communication method is:

☐ Email ☐ Phone Call ☐ Text Message ☐ Regular Mail

I want to learn more about the following:

☐ Family and Children's Ministries ☐ Social justice and Outreach
☐ Bible Studies and Small Groups ☐ Community Groups (Knitting Club, Men's Breakfast group, etc.)
☐ Music and Worship

COMMUNITY CONNECTION CARD

Outreach to Women

What: A gift box of essential hygiene supplies.

How: Items and financial donations will be collected May 18 and 25 to prepare a special box to be delivered to women in the Caldwell neighbourhood.

Items: Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, sunscreen, face cream, body/hand lotion, cleanser, lip balm, nail file, emery board, clippers, etc.

Your Outreach Committee Thanks You!

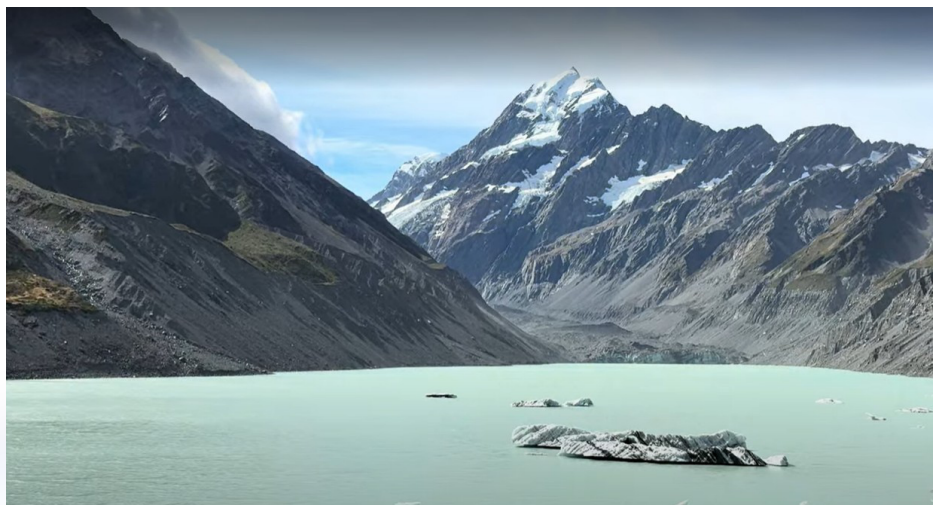


Image from a video by Sara Francis

Sundaes on Sunday

Sunday, May 25

Tait Hall
after the service celebration

Celebrate the start of summer with
an ice cream sundae!

Vanilla or chocolate ice cream (or a little of both)
and your choice of toppings.



Articles and photos are gratefully accepted.
The editors reserve the right to edit all material.

Deadline for next edition:

Sunday, September 14, 2025

TRINITY TOPICS TEAM

Jean Meldrum: jeanmeldrum21@gmail.com

Courtney Sladden

Arlene Smith

Donald Smith

1099 Maitland Avenue, Ottawa ON
613-225-3627

Trinity United Church - Ottawa

Email: office@trinityunitedottawa.ca
www.trinityunitedottawa.ca