



The GrapeVine

Autumn 2015

Welcome From Our Chair of Council

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and that you are all looking forward to what is next for Erindale. Your JNAC committee has been working hard all summer and the completed JNAC will be presented to Presbytery on September 17th. When it is approved by Presbytery we will have a Congregational Meeting and a vacancy will be declared for Erindale. We will then be able to advertise for our new minister.

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Don Parsons as our supply minister. Rev. Parsons has been hired to work part time and his hours at Erindale will be Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 3:00 and Sunday Service. He will attend Council Meetings and Worship Meetings and all other meetings as requested, as well as officiating at funerals and weddings. Along with Congregational Care, Rev. Parsons will provide pastoral care when needed.

Don retired in June 2007 after 39 years of ordained ministry. His last pastoral charge was Port Nelson United Church in Burlington and he was there for 18 years. He also had the privilege of serving St. Andrew's United in Blind River, First St. Andrew's in London, First United in St. Thomas and Central United in Welland.

Don served as Chair of the text committee which produced *Voices United*, the hymn book of the United Church of Canada. For ten years he was a member of the Board of Management of the Queen's School of Religion, and in 2013 completed a double term on the Board of Kirkridge – an ecumenical study and retreat centre in Pennsylvania.

Don grew up in Aylmer, Ontario and received his BA from Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. He received his MDiv from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He received

additional training from Toronto School of Theology, Yale Divinity School, Princeton Seminary and the Iona Community in Scotland.

For 3 months in the fall of 2008 Don was Acting Director of the United Church's Five Oaks Centre, while Mardi Tindal, a former moderator, was on sabbatical. Since his "Retirement", Don has served as Minister of Worship at Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto, interim minister at Dublin St. United Church in Guelph, interim minister at Eden United Church in Mississauga and interim minister at St. John's United Church in Georgetown.

In recent years, Don and his wife, Marg have been nourished by four week-long visits to the ecumenical spiritual community of Taizé in France, and a 12 day service/learning experience among the poor in Nicaragua. Don enjoys theatre, music, photography, reading, gardening, curling, art history and regular workouts at the Y. He and Marg have great fun with their 6 grandchildren, and all enjoy time at their cottage north of Goderich on Lake Huron.

We were pleased to worship with the Mississauga Mennonite Church again this summer. Please take time to have a look at the card sent to Erindale Congregation. It is posted on the bulletin board outside the coat room. Some of the comments included: "Thanks for the hospitality", "Great to worship with you again", "Being with the wider circle before God has been special". "We thank you for welcoming us so warmly". "We feel your love", "I have enjoyed playing on that lovely piano!" We pray for God's blessing on Erindale United Church as we move forward into the coming church year.

Margaret McCrae



From the Desk of Our New Minister, The Rev. Don Parsons

Dear Members and Friends of Erindale United Church:

Chaim Potok, in the opening pages of his novel *"In The Beginning"* introduces us to David Lurie. He is remembering back to some of the stresses of his childhood, when his mother would soothe him with the words, "This is the way it is, David. All beginnings are hard..."

As we move into this autumn season, the relationship we share with each other feels like a new beginning as we begin to discern what God has in mind for the future mission and ministry of the Erindale United Church family.

Let us acknowledge that as Potok reminds us, "All beginnings *are* hard..." Most of us would prefer church life that is steady and predictable. Yet we know that in the months ahead of us we will be confronted with challenges and growing edges -- and that may be unsettling.

But we will walk this journey together. For my part, I offer you a caring presence, a listening ear, the nourishment of strong worship, the joy of friendship, and perhaps a few new opportunities to ponder and experience... May I encourage you to help make these new beginnings less stressful for our church family by continuing to offer your faithful, prayer-filled encouragement and support week by week.

I am profoundly grateful that we are sharing this ministry -- this new beginning -- together. My prayer is that we will become aware of the Spirit's Holy presence moving among us, nudging us into the dream that is in the heart of God for this wonderful church family.

Warmly,

Don Parsons



From the Desk of Our Music Director

Dear Friends of Erindale:

Welcome Back to Reality!! Though it doesn't seem possible, we are coming to the close of summer 2015, and, though it is disappointing to see warm days at the beach or quiet days at the cottage fade off into the distance of our rear view mirror of memory, as written in Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season..."

This season change brings with it some very large changes for the people of Erindale as we move into fall with a change in a lot of faces around the church. As you know, Rev. Neil has moved on to share with a new congregation in

downtown Toronto, and we of course will continue to support him in our prayers as he begins his new ministry there. With the loss of Rev. Neil at Erindale, we are very fortunate to be blessed with welcoming The Rev. Don Parsons, along with his wife Margaret to our congregation, and to share with them the upcoming year of change and fresh opportunities as we move forward in this year of readjustment, recommitment and response to God in some new, exciting, and interesting ways.

As you are settling into your schedules for the upcoming year, please remember that there are limitless ways in which you can reach out and support the church through active participation in its many committees and other groups. If you don't feel inspired to serve on a committee, why not consider actively participating in the Book Club, Friday Morning Coffee Hour, the UCW, Open Stage on Saturday nights (Dates TBA), Psalm 98 band on Wednesday evenings, or our Sanctuary Choir on Thursdays. These are just a few suggestions, though there is a multitude of other ways in which you can get involved with your Church Family, all of which strengthens our church and helps us to get to know each other better.

It has been a pleasure to work with Rev. Neil over these past six years (I just had my 6th Erindale Anniversary on Labour Day Weekend). In all of my approximately 41 years in church ministry, I have never worked with a minister that made such an effort to personally welcome visitors through the church doors on a Sunday morning, so in appreciation of the effort he made, let US all make the effort to make visitors feel warmly welcomed as he did.

I anticipate a year of great music as we break in the new organ, enjoy weekly choir anthems, regular blended worship services with Psalm 98 and Choir together, occasional guest musicians (eg. Bagpipes, Trumpets, etc) and in addition to regular Sunday services, special services such as All Saints Day, Remembrance Day, Lessons and Carols, both contemporary and traditional Christmas Eve services and other special dates TBA.

As I look forward to the coming year, I am truly THRILLED to be ministering to you along with Don Parsons. You will quickly see that he has the wonderful gift of beautiful sermon writing and delivery, as well as the knowledge of liturgy, power of prayer, the value of quiet and silence in Worship, and a very Christ-Centered faith. I find his sermons to be very spiritually nourishing and inspiring, and truly feel like this year is a "Gift" to Erindale as we explore our horizons, and a blessing to me to have the opportunity of working with him for the coming year.

A true and personal story that I'll share with you regarding my excitement about the coming year: (This works out to about 50% "Share the story" and

50% "Confessional Booth".)

You will notice from Margaret McCrae's letter to the congregation (see Pg. 1) that many years ago, Don served as Sr. Minister of Central United Church in Welland for several years. (Literally 1 block down the street from my house). Very shortly after he left there for another appointment, I was appointed Music Director/Organist/Choirmaster there, where I stayed for about eight years. In the beginning of my tenure there, the Choir Librarian, the Late Mrs. Eileen Phillips generously gave me a beautiful used black leather executive briefcase to carry music back and forth. It was packed with multiple colours of paper that had been put through the old ink blasting Gestetener machine, for multi-copying. I politely asked Eileen what all this printed paper was, and if it was anything she needed. She explained that she didn't, and that it was the previous Minister's (Don's) sermons in print for shut-ins. "It contains nearly every sermon he ever delivered while he was here" she exclaimed... "Well, isn't that Just Special" I said, as truthfully, I was discreetly looking around for the nearest blue box thinking the LAST thing that I needed was to READ another CRAPPY sermon. God only knows I've HEARD enough of them, and um, "You're preachin' to the choir!" Eileen doesn't need to know that this Don Parsons character is about to feed my Blue Box, and, it IS a pretty nice briefcase! Well, you know what happened from there...

Some time later, they invited Rev. Parsons back to preach for an anniversary service... And I stayed AWAKE and ENGAGED during the sermon! So did everyone else, and sadly, I hadn't seen that before... After that Anniversary Guest Appearance, I had the pleasure of hearing him preach at a couple of other services and I realized that Don really has a very special gift. In all my 41 years as Minister of Music in the church, I have NEVER had the privilege of working with such a gifted and spirit-filled preacher. I even learned SOMETHING from all those unread sermons. Though I'm sure there was something more profound in the messages therein, I can assure that even without reading them, they taught me to READ THINGS BEFORE THROWING THEM AWAY!! Imagine what I might have learned had I taken the time to read them!! I'm usually very pleased to fill the blue/grey/green boxes, but that was one load of recycling I wish

I had kept!!

As we begin our work together, we do so working with some major changes to the members of the Worship committee of the church, so don't be surprised or upset about a few adjustments to the service as we explore some new things, learn a few new hymns/praise songs, and we nurture one another and grow together as Branches of The True Vine.

Rob Anderson



A Bible Seminar for the 21st Century.

It has been some time since a Bible study series had been offered at Erindale United Church. In this year of transition, I have volunteered to lead eight different seminars once a month from September to May (but not in November). They will be based on the way I have approached the Bible for a number of years, without reference to superstition or the supernatural.

The content for first two months of September and October are based on an undergraduate course on "The Bible and English Literature" by Northrop Frye. I took a version of the course at Victoria College during the 1963-64 academic year. I am pleased that the complete set of 25 of Frye's lectures, delivered in 1980, are now available in streaming video format from the www.heritage.utoronto.ca website. The exact link to each lecture in the set is given by the formula <http://heritage.utoronto.ca/content/bible-and-english-literature-northrop-frye-full-lecture-n>, where n is an integer chosen from 1, 2, 3, ... 24, 25.

Of course, I am a student of Physics, not English Literature nor Theology. I will not be able to duplicate Frye's encyclopaedic understanding of the story of the Christian Bible, nor his masterful retelling of the "ups and downs" of the history of the Children of Israel. But the evidence for his personal "Educated Imagination" is clearly present when you view his online lectures.

Frye's work has a particular importance to the United Church of Canada, in which he also served as an ordained Minister. His views on many topics will be discussed: the various translations of the Christian Bible, the continuity of simple literary symbols (the

sea, the tree, the river, the city, the hills, the valleys, the rivers, etc.) from the Old Testament into the New Testament, and his insights into the basic literary concepts of metaphor and simile. I refer to one of his important literary concepts as "the truth of myth" and "the myth of truth".

I began this seminar with an introduction to the work and ideas of Northrop Frye on the evening of September 8th, 2015 and repeated it after Church services on the following Sunday September 13th. I post transcripts and Internet references for each monthly session on my website, www.frasercode.ca.

In October, I will summarize the content of Frye's first three streaming video lectures, and comment on the purpose of having us read the last book he wrote, entitled "The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion" (Univ. of Toronto press, 1991, paperback, available from www.amazon.ca). This book deals primarily with the ambiguity of language.

In November, there will be a reading and viewing break to appreciate Frye's ideas on the Christian Bible. His paperback is quite short, and inexpensive. It is recognized to be the most readable of his books. Again, Internet links to Frye's video lectures will be posted on the "Bible Seminar Blog" and "Transcripts" pages of my website, www.frasercode.ca.

In December, I will elaborate on the New Testament stories of the Birth of the Messiah, as outlined by the Jesuit scholar, Raymond Brown.

In January, I will discuss Science and Technology in the Bible, particularly some uncertainties about units of measure of distance and time, and will consider the differences in the cosmology of the ancient and the modern eras.

In February, I will comment on the rich traditions of middle-eastern religious literature beyond the Old and New Testaments of the Christian Bible.

In March, I will discuss the Easter story.

In April, I will consider the concepts of Heaven and Hell, as well as ideas about Everlasting Life (both perpetual life, and life beyond time).

Finally in May, I will comment on some issues between Science and Religion that challenge Christian thinking in the 21st century.

The aim of the seminar is to stimulate Christians to think clearly about their beliefs in an age where so many find it convenient not to participate in institutional Churches. I am using my website to help everyone to get references and transcripts at their own convenience.

I hope you enjoy this experiment.

Fraser Code
(fraser.code@gmail.com)

Update From Our UCW

All women are invited to be part of Erindale United Church Women. There are two units which meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday in the McGill Room:- Mary and Martha Circle at 1.15 and Friends in Faith at 7.30.

We will be donating \$1,000 to the **Syrian Refugee Fund** through the United Church.

Fall Retreat: This year the Annual Retreat at **Five Oaks Centre**, sponsored by Hamilton Conference UCW, takes place on Friday/Saturday October 30/31. The full cost, which includes overnight accommodation, dinner, breakfast, lunch, and program, is \$110. However, Erindale attendees will be subsidized by our UCW and Halton Presbyterial UCW. The Facilitator for the retreat is Chris Grose and the theme is "Love in Action" Deadline for registration is Sept. 30th. Registration forms available from Ann Edge.

Our **Cranberry Apple Crisp** makers will be busy this fall. We hope to have these popular desserts available on Oct. 25 and Nov. 22

Once again UCW will be selling **MacMillan** products in time for Christmas - frozen cookie doughs, muffin batters, pies, and holiday entertaining items etc. Brochures will be available on Oct 18 and orders will be taken on Oct 25, Nov.1 and Nov.8. Pick-up is on Friday Dec. 4 from 1 to 3 and 7 to 8.

Also this year there will be **Tourtieres** for sale from 'That Pie Place' in Oakville - dates same as above.

Church Calendars will be available sometime in October till our supply runs out.

The **Annual Frosty Festive Fare** will take place on **Sunday, December 13** with all the usual cookies, squares, and preserves for Christmas. We rely on the generous donations of these items from the congregation to make this sale a success. Thank you to all who have provided these in the past and we hope you will help again this year. Items may be brought to the kitchen on Sat, Dec. 12. We will have an expanded 'Cranberry Corner' this year.

Each year at the end of October the coins put away at daily prayer through the previous 12 months for **Fellowship of the Least Coin** are gathered in. Some of you have collection cans for this purpose. Please empty your can and bring the contents to church on **Sunday Nov.1**, or bring the can and we will empty it. Our least coin is now 5 cents, so a year's worth is \$18.25. A basket will be in the narthex for your donations.

We collect these monies on behalf of the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada which in turn sends the proceeds on to the International Committee of FLC. This Committee meets each November to make grants to women's groups around the world.

Ann Edge, President



An Erindale Goodbye

Note From Editor: The following prose was written by Rachel Nott. As I have been encouraging our youth to have a voice, I present this to you, direct from her without editing.

In the city of Mississauga stood a church by the name of Erindale.

Music could be heard from all around. Hymns, anthems and psalms too; filled the air with a joyous tune. People travel from far and wide to attend Sunday service. Though late comers make their way in and babies may cry; the minister goes on.

Through the cold and stormy nights or the bright and sunny mornings; Erindale's congregation joins together to worship God's name. Though other churches may do the above as well, Erindale is one of a kind.

Throughout the year, events take place which show how Erindale is the best of the best.

One Sunday each year, guests and visitors from all around come to worship at Erindale. They may be

from far out lands or from right next door. From Anne (of Green Gables) to Zingbot; everyone comes for this one special service.

Other events which separate Erindale from the rest include: The men's chili dinner, Sandy Lake gifts, The annual Garage Sale, The annual Pancake Supper, The annual Church Picnic, The Congo Surgeon Benefit concert, Open Stage nights, just to name a few...

Erindale is a place where the newly departed may rest and where the newly arrived may be baptized. Erindale is a place where adults may re-live their childhood as they playfully parade around the Narthex blowing their kazoo, proving that no matter how old you are, kazoos always bring the inner child out of everyone...

Although you may be far away or right next door, the congregation of Erindale United Church wishes you all the luck at St. Andrew's United Church, and as you go off to start a new chapter of your life, remember Erindale as they will remember you...

The End Is Just The Beginning....

Rachel Nott





Book Club List 2015-2016

Dates (Mondays)	Book	Author
Sept 28	All The Light We Cannot See	Anthony Doerr
Oct 26	And the Birds Rained Down	Jocelyn Soucier
Nov 23	The Rosie Project	Graeme Simsion
Jan 25	The Covenant	Naomi Ragen
Feb 22	Sweetland	Michael Crummy
Mar 28	Bury your Dead	Louise Penny
Apr 25	Years of Wonder	Gwendolyn Brooks
May 30 (ONE WEEK LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY)	Motorcycles & Sweetgrass	Drew Hayden Taylor
June 12 Wrap up		

This year we have wonderful list of books to read, join us at the church at 7:30. Great fun, laughter and friendship. If you have questions, call me Marilyn Johnston, 905-823-3229



Please remember these important upcoming dates:

- ***November 1st, All Saints Day***

At 2:00 a.m., we turn our clocks BACKWARDS, blessing us with an extra hour of sleep and reducing the chances of arriving late to our special All Saints Day Service

- ***November 15th Deadline***

Deadline for all submissions to the Advent & Christmas issue of "The Grapevine". It will be available through our website, email, as well as in print on Sunday November 22nd. This edition should include any events, meetings and other announcements up to and including February 7th.

- ***January 29th Deadline***

Deadline for all submissions to the Lent, Easter & Pentecost Issue of "The Grapevine". Include anything relevant for February 7th through to June 7th.

- ***May 27th Deadline***

Deadline for all submissions to the Summer edition of "The Grapevine". Please mark these important dates on your schedules so that you can plan ahead.

erindalegrapevine@gmail.com

News from our Worship Committee

Providing worship that is relevant in our congregation members' lives; an hour of sanctuary from the busy-ness that surrounds many of us; and fellowship with people who share the same beliefs - those were the sentiments at the heart of Marilyn Johnston's devotion at the start of our first meeting this September. Three more worthy goals we can't imagine.

As is our tradition, this summer we held joint services the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship. This was the 3rd year the Mennonites joined with Erindale, and was a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and obtain a different perspective on how to conduct a worship service. Rev. Neil focused his July message on 4 different years that shaped his journey through ministry, along with a reflection on how ministry has continued to evolve. The Mennonites focused their August message on "Walking in the Footsteps of the Subversive Jesus", and included guest speaker Harry Nigh who works as Toronto Community Chaplain with Correctional Services Canada.

We look ahead to this "new year" that's begun with enthusiasm and energy. We met for the first time with Rev. Don to begin planning the year, and we think you'll like where we're heading. As a church, we are experiencing change. The members of your worship committee are committed to working with Rev. Don and with you to protect what's working well while continuing to evolve our services.

The work of the church takes many forms, many people, and many hands. It's important that everyone who is a part of the life of the church does so with the congregation's blessing and appreciation. So on Sunday, September 27th, Rev. Don will send us all into our year's of work for the church with a commissioning. Sunday School teachers; choir members; band members; ushers; counters; all committee members; trustees; UCW members - join us for this service to be inspired.

Inspiration comes from many sources, and an important one is the music that accompanies our worship. This year, we will look for additional ways in which our choir and Psalm 98 can jointly lend their "joyful noise" in service to worship. We can all look forward to a few services this year during which the choir and band will support worship together.

We have also discussed offering more communion services than in recent years. Rev. Don has indicated that he enjoys serving communion, and sharing this with members of the congregation, especially the children and youth. So we will incorporate this approach.

Along the way, please let us know how you are experiencing worship; what you like; and what you'd like us to consider as we move forward. Only by all of us working together, will we achieve our goals of enjoying a relevant worship in the sanctuary of Sunday morning and the fellowship of each other.

Ralph Nott (Out-going Chair)
Jutta Argao (In-coming Chair)

Erindale United Church

1444 Dundas Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario L5C 1E9

Phone: [\(905\) 277-3656](tel:9052773656) www.erindaleunited.org

Minister – Rev. Don Parsons donparsons22@gmail.com

Director of Music – Robert Anderson jagmkv@gmail.com

Psalm 98 Music Program – psalm98band@gmail.com

Wedding Coordinator – Nicole Hansen nicoleduncan@hotmail.com

Office Administrator – Sarah McEwing churchoffice@erindaleunited.org

Grapevine Submissions:

erindalegrapevine@gmail.com

Worship Schedule, 2015 Lectionary, Year B

Date	Season	Lectionary Reading	Sunday Service Reading	Special Events
Sept. 20	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Proverbs 31:10–31 Psalm 1 Wisdom of Solomon 1:16—2:1, 12–22 or Jeremiah 11:18–20 Psalm 54 James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a Mark 9:30–37	Mark 9: 30-37	“Kids Around The Bus” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Sept. 27	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22 Psalm 124 Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29 Psalm 19:7–14 James 5:13–20 Mark 9:38–50	Mark 9: 38-50	Re-affirmation/commissioning for all volunteers “Everyone Is Included” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Oct. 4	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Job 1:1; 2:1–10 Psalm 26 Genesis 2:18–24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12 Mark 10:2–16	Mark 10: 13-16	World Communion Sunday Communion “How Big Is The Table?” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Oct. 11	20th Sunday after Pentecost	Job 23:1–9, 16–17 Psalm 22:1–15 Amos 5:6–7, 10–15 Psalm 90:12–17 Hebrews 4:12–16 Mark 10:17–31		Thanksgiving Sunday Guest Preacher
Oct. 18	21st Sunday after Pentecost	Job 38:1–7, (34–41) Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c Isaiah 53:4–12 Psalm 91:9–16 Hebrews 5:1–10 Mark 10:35–45	Mark 10: 35-45	World Food Sunday “Sharing A Muffin” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Oct. 25	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Job 42:1–6, 10–17 Psalm 34:1–8, (19–22) Jeremiah 31:7–9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23–28 Mark 10:46–52	Mark 10: 46-52	(Reformation Sunday; Peace Sunday) Baptism “Getting Jesus’ Attention” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Nov. 1	23rd Sunday after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1–18 Psalm 146 Deuteronomy 6:1–9 Psalm 119:1–8 Hebrews 9:11–14 Mark 12:28–34	John 11: 32-44	All Saints/All Souls Sunday “Saints Preserve Us!” (Rev. Don Parsons)

Nov. 8	24th Sunday after Pentecost	Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17 Psalm 127 1 Kings 17:8–16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24– 28 Mark 12:38–44	John 15: 12-17	Remembrance Sunday “No Stone Unclaimed” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Nov. 15	25th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Samuel 1:4–20 1 Samuel 2:1–10 Daniel 12:1–3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11– 14, (15–18), 19–25 Mark 13:1–8	Mark 13: 1-8	Children’s Sunday “A Pile of Rubble” (Rev. Don Parsons)
Nov. 22	26th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 23:1–7 Psalm 132:1–12, (13–18) Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b–8 John 18:33–37		Guest Preacher