

The GrapeVine

Advent 2016

From the Desk of Don Parsons

I am aware that the anticipation is building, as you look forward to your new minister's arrival on February 1st. Congratulations to the Joint Search Committee who worked carefully, and patiently on the congregation's behalf, and who are so enthused about sharing this next chapter of Erindale's faith journey with Brenna Nickel.

It has been a great privilege for me to have shared ministry with you these past many months. This has been a wonderful gig for me, and for Marg., and we have been enriched by your gracious welcome into your friendship circle.

I am glad that we have not just marked time in our life together. We have enjoyed a deepening spirituality that has manifested itself in strong support not only in worship Sunday by Sunday, but also for the several special reflective services we have offered:- "Christmas In A Minor Key" in December, the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday worship opportunities in Lent. The Taize workshop last February also helped us to experience something of the uniqueness of this transformative community in France.

I am pleased that last spring the Council endorsed a revamping of the Erindale web site, offering us a communication tool of which we can be proud. After a couple of significant speed bumps, we now look forward to the arrival of two refugee families, and are grateful for the

strong leadership and support offered by many in our Erindale church family. Someone described the Erindale Emporium as "a great church party", complete with balloons, great food, an ice cream truck, all sorts of cool stuff for sale, and lots of laughter. And the Organs & Octaves concert offered us a first-class evening of beautiful music.

Your faithful support, Sunday by Sunday, has meant a great deal to me. I am pleased that you have been willing to try some new hymns. The addition of "More Voices" for the choir will offer many more opportunities to explore some global faith songs.

It has been a privilege to be with several in the congregation who have had to move through the valley of the shadow. And I have been grateful that we have been able to include children and youth in leadership roles as we have shared in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

As our time together comes to a close, the opportunity to share Advent, Christmas, and January with each other will make those services profoundly meaningful for us. May the Spirit of the Christ-Child nourish and challenge us, as God's Holy, Healing Love comes alive in our midst.

Don
November 13 2016

Chair of Council

Over the last couple of months, there has been a buzz of excitement around Erindale. Several events have taken place which would not have been a success without the support of each one of you.

On October 15th, the Erindale Emporium took place. From 10am to 3pm, the church was filled with artisans selling hand crafted goods, a silent auction, art in the Board room, a tea room, music in the sanctuary, BBQ and an ice cream truck just outside the front doors of the church. The sounds of conversation and laughter filled the air, and the smiles on everyone's face validated that this event was a success. I would like to extend my appreciation to Steve Wykurz for leading this event, and all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

On October 25th, the full court meeting of Halton Presbytery was held at Erindale. John and Marilyn Hurst hosted the event, setting up the sanctuary for the meeting, and providing refreshments for the break. On behalf of Erindale, I welcomed the presbytery members to Erindale, and provided a brief update on what was happening in our church. One of the topics of discussion at the Presbytery meeting was voting on remit 7-Candidacy Pathway. It was interesting to listen to the presentation on the remit, and to see the ensuing debate that took place before a vote was called.

On October 30th, a congregational meeting was held to receive the report from the Joint Search Committee, and to vote on the recommendation to call Rev. Brenna Nickel as Erindale's minister. To get to the point of this call, quite a bit of work had to take place - including the search for a supply minister; the development of Erindale's JNAC; the formation of a search committee; advertisements; a review of all applicants; development of interview questions; the selection of potential candidates for initial interviews; second interviews and the final decision. I would like to acknowledge Mary

Patterson's efforts as the Search Committee chair, and the search committee members, Carolyn Hendricks, Christian Hawn, Doug Johnston, George Beagley, John Hurst, Rachel Nott, Susan Lyons, along with our presbytery representatives Rev. Sheila Murray and Paul Lamont, for their dedication and hard work.

On November 12th, the Organs & Octaves concert provided an evening of music, and an opportunity to formally dedicate the organ. A special thanks to Shawn Grenke, who stepped in as the feature organist when Rob was sidelined. Roselyn Brown showcased her talent by playing several pieces on the flute, alto saxophone and soprano saxophone. The sanctuary was filled with music, and the audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation at the end of the concert. This concert would not have taken place without the leadership of Marilyn Johnston and sub-committee members Barb Manchur, Laura Turner, Brian Crombie and Carolyn Hendricks.

Looking to the future, the 42nd General Council made major decisions to transform the structure of The United Church of Canada. Published on February 23, 2016 and last modified on September 19, 2016, the eight remits approved by the 42nd General Council that could transform the church are now on the [GC42 website](#).

Erindale United must vote on 5 of the remits. Congregational information sessions will be held to provide background on each remit, and to provide an opportunity for open dialogue and feedback. The Erindale Council will provide the vote on behalf of Erindale United Church.

Ralph Nott

News from the Worship Committee

Season's Greetings from your Worship Committee

As I'm writing this entry, committee members are knee-deep in preparations for Advent and Christmas: checking the collection of wreaths, garlands, angels and candles; planning to decorate the Sanctuary; preparing to lead Advent I Service; inviting Advent candle lighters and readers; inviting congregational members to serve Communion on December 4th and 24th; the list easily goes on and on, doesn't it?

For us, these tasks are joyful, because they create the backdrop for all of us at Erindale to celebrate what the Advent season is about: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. As we celebrate each Advent Sunday together each year, we hope you take comfort in our shared faith, find warmth in our church family and give support to those amongst us who find this time of year hard to cope with. Your Worship Committee will be leading our Advent I service on November 27th, and we are delighted at the prospect.

For seasonal inspiration, visit the United Church of Canada website at <http://www.united-church.ca/news/unwrap-joy-and-anticipation-advent>. Especially the Advent Calendar <http://www.adventunwrapped.ca/files/2016/10/advent-calendar-2016.pdf> may help to focus on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. You will find daily activities or challenges such as listing 3 hopes you have for others or making a list of 3 things you can do to bring or share peace.

We will have announcements in the bulletin

regarding our Christmas Services, and they are noted within this Grapevine as well. Of special note:

- Christmas Eve Services will be offered at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. this year. We received feedback last year that holding the family oriented service a little earlier than 7:30 p.m. would be preferred for a variety of reasons, and hope this small shift will work well. The later service will once again include Communion.
- The answer to the question "will there be a Service on Sunday, December 25th?" is a resounding "yes". We will gather at church, share readings and carols that will lift up our hearts in celebration of the true gift of Christmas. By the way, the same holds true for Sunday, January 1st.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I wish you the blessings of the Season,

*Jutta Argao
Chair*

Visit Our New Website

Visit erindaleunited.church Regularly

- Latest Church Calendar
- New Pictures
- Fast Updates on Church Events
- Special Home Page notices
- Feedback? Email fraser.code@gmail.com

UCW News

UCW thanks everyone who contributed to the Fellowship of the Least Coin Ingathering in October. \$454 has been donated so far. The final amount will be forwarded to the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada which will send it on to the International FLC Committee. This committee meets to allocate funds in the name of peace to women's groups around the world.

For your festive preparations:

- Orders are being taken on Sundays 13th and 20th November for Savoury Pies (Tourtiere, Steak and Mushroom, and Chicken Pot Pie) and Quiches (Lorraine and Mushroom) from That Pie Place in Oakville. Both family (\$14) and individual (\$5) sizes are offered. Last orders on Nov. 20. Pick-up day is Sat. Dec. 10 between 11 and 3 (same hours as Bake Sale contributions drop-off).
- There will be a Used Book Sale in Gardner Hall following worship on Sunday, Nov. 20
- Church Calendars are now available priced \$8 each and will be offered until our supply runs out.
- Once again a team will be getting together to make Apple Cranberry Crisps and these favourite desserts will be on sale, reg. size priced \$10, from the kitchen on Sundays Nov. 20th and 27th. This year there will also be a smaller size available.

Events

In October three women from Erindale attended the last Hamilton Conference UCW Women's Retreat to be held at Five Oaks Centre. The centre is ceasing catering and overnight operations this month but will keep a skeleton staff for day meetings. A committee is

currently working on ways to keep this beautiful place going and will report back in the spring.

Our ladies enjoyed a wonderful 2 days of worship, singing, book reviews, meals, fun time, and program. Jennifer Bawden Miller led the first day with the theme "Who Am I?" and Mary Jo Patterson took over the next day with "Art of God" - art can be anything we do including cooking, sewing and various crafts. She also continued the "Who Am I" theme with everyone creating a mask which showed the person the world sees on one side and the person's own vision of herself on the other. The retreat ended with the celebration of Communion.

Hopefully, a new venue can be found so that this Retreat may continue for many more years.



Ten UCW women carpooled to Milton to visit The Darling Home for Kids on October 18. The trip there and back was very enjoyable as the fall colours were beautiful.

The home is in a very quiet, peaceful setting amidst 77 forested acres just north of Milton. Melody Jackson, who spoke at our Annual Meeting in June, showed us around this amazing facility. Everything is geared to the comfort and well-being of the children who spend time there, from the hydrotherapy room, to the multi-sensory room, to the art room, to the family room where movies and music are readily available.

Continued Next page...



The children who come to the Darling Home are medically fragile and technology dependent. The home provides weekend respite care for the families several times per year in a safe, loving environment. It can accommodate 12 children at a time in beautifully decorated bedrooms. Currently there are three children living there fulltime. During school vacations the home also provides day programs. While the children are with their parents they attend regular school as they are able.

The outside areas are set up with the same attention to the children's needs - there is even a swing that can take a wheelchair. There are woodland paths and a fire-pit for campfire evenings.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and our UCW will look at ways to help, possibly volunteering to make some meals for their freezer. Along with the highly trained nursing and therapy staff, volunteers do a lot of the work involved in the running of the home. Check out the Darling Home for Kids website to see the wonderful things they do.

Ann Edge



Organs & Octaves

The inaugural concert to honour the gift of our new organ is behind us and it was a huge success.

The feedback from concert goers is that they enjoyed hearing and seeing the new organ played by Shawn Grenke. An added bonus was Roselyn Brown's beautiful music not only on the flute but also the alto and soprano sax. We were serenaded by Victoria Chen on piano during the intermission. One sadness is that Rob Anderson was not able to play at the concert due to illness. We certainly missed him.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the many volunteers that helped to make the concert the success it was. Thank you to all the ticket sellers and to Rev Don and Sarah McEwen for their support.

Thank you to the following helpers.

Food Prep: Susan Lyons, Marilyn Hurst, Pat Jenkins

Servers: Doug Johnston, Laura Beyak, Ralph Nott, Erin Dawson

Ushers: Angela and Doug Brien

Sound Control: Rachel Nott

Parkers: Bill McIntosh

Stage Crew: Jim Bright, Doug Johnston, Ralph Nott, Liz Nott

Planning Committee: Laura Turner, Barb Manchur, Carolyn Brown, Marilyn Johnston (Chair)

Marilyn Johnston

*FROSTY FESTIVE FARE
BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
In Gardner Hall after worship
Bring your Friends*

*Sale of baked items, pickles, jams, and jellies,
including make up a box of your own choice of squares & cookies.*

Christmas White Elephant Table

Cranberry Corner

Do you bake any special Christmas items?

*The UCW would be grateful to have donations of the above items, incl. Christmas items for
the White Elephant Table from the Congregation.*

*Please wrap, label and price your goodies and bring them to the kitchen on Saturday, Dec.
10th between 11 and 3.*

*A price list guide is available to take home - look for the Christmas box on the kitchen
counter.*

Please specify if your item contains nuts.

Priced items may also be brought early on the Sunday.

For further information, you may contact one of the following:

Joyce Murdoch - 905 849 0057

Clarine Dillon - 905 819 8127

Eleanor McIntosh - 905 820 6179

Donald and Nadia Lay

*Wish to support the work of Erindale United
Church, by donating the net profits from all sales
of their Amway products to members of Erindale
United and their friends for the coming year.*

*Our products include Household Cleaners,
Premium Skin Care and Makeup, the Number 1
Vitamin and Supplement line in the world, Bath
and Body products, Water and Air Treatment
Systems and Sports Nutrition and Weight Loss
products.*

*All products are best in their class and carry a
180 day money back guarantee.*

*For more information and/or to order, contact
Donald or Nadia at Church or by phone at 905-
855-3363 or email at donalddlay@gmail.com*

Craft Time

The **Craft and Conversation** group has been
meeting since September on the first
Wednesday of the month. Next get together is
on December 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the McGill
Room. Bring some hand work and join the
conversation. Coffee and friends and a little
time to reflect - who could ask for more?

*Marilyn Johnston
Phone: 905-823-3229*

Worship

A warm, friendly welcome always awaits you at Erindale.

Sunday, November 27 - 10:30 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent

Our Service will be led by our Worship Committee

Sunday, December 4 - 10:30 a.m.

Advent II - The Sacrament of Holy Communion

“Out of the Box”

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - Isaiah 11: 1 - 10

Tuesday, December 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Christmas In A Minor Key

(For those who welcome a more reflective service, in the midst of the busyness of the season.)

Sunday, December 11 - 10:30 a.m.

Advent III

“Taking The Stable In Stride”

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - Luke 1: 46 - 55

The Sacrament of Baptism will be included in the service.

Sunday, December 18 - 10:30 a.m.

Advent IV

“Waiting To Snuggle”

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve.

7 p.m. - A service of Christmas Music and Drama for all ages.

Music by Psalm 98 (our Erindale Band)

10 p.m. - Candlelit Carol Communion

Meditation - “When God is a Child”

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Music by our Chancel Choir

We will also share the light of Christmas with each other.

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

10:30 a.m.

“Two Voices From Bethlehem”

(Rev. Don Parsons offers two brief reflections --
that of a shepherd, and the innkeeper’s wife.)

Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day

10:30 a.m.

"All Beginnings Are Hard"

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - Luke 2: 15 - 21

Sunday, January 8 - 10:30 a.m.

"God Tells Us A Secret"

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - Matthew 3: 13 - 17

Sunday, January 15 - 10:30 a.m.

"Let Me Introduce You"

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - John 1: 29 - 42

Sunday, January 22 - 10:30 a.m.

"Being Called For"

(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)

Scripture - Matthew 4: 12 - 23

Sunday, January 29 - 10:30 a.m.

Don Parsons' last Sunday with Erindale United Church

"Being Held In One's Heart"

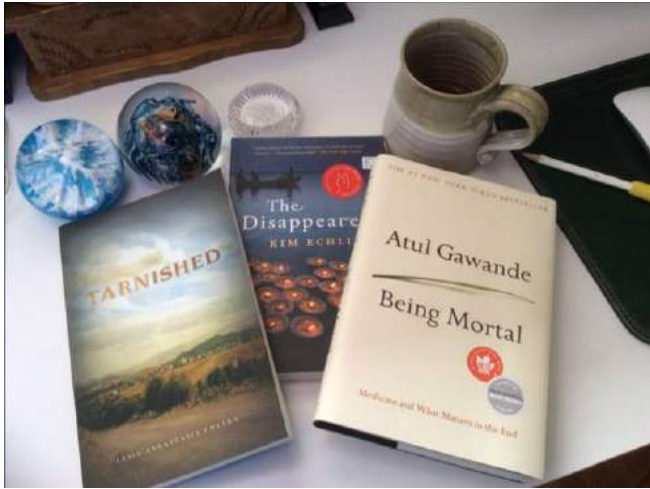
(Rev. Don Parsons will be preaching)



Mary and Martha Circle made almost 50 baskets up for Interim Place and Deacon's Cupboard clients.

From left to right the names are: Dianne Drennan, Mary Cochrane, Sandra Wiseman, Rose Yamamura, Dorothy Weston and Ann Edge. There were others helping who are not pictured.





Book Club News

The next three books for January, February, March are books I'm really looking forward to reading and discussing at book club.

Come and join us on the fourth Monday of the month. We meet at the church in the

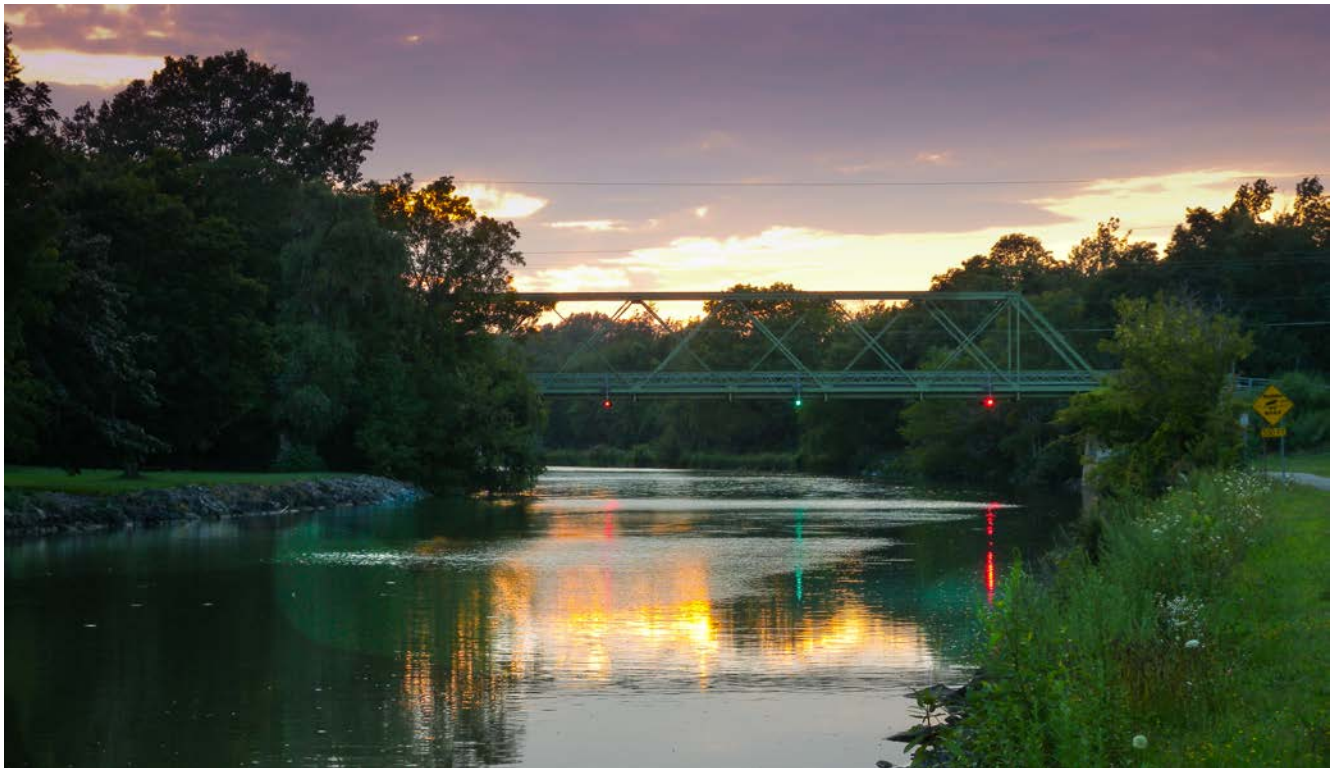
McGill Room at 7:30.

January 23, **The Disappeared by Kim Echin** is a story set in Canada and Cambodia

February 27, **Being Mortal by Atul Gawande** is a non-fiction exploration of aging, death and the medical profession's mishandling of both.

March 27, **Tarnished by Lesia Annastasia Chytra** spans seven decades and is a true story about identity, survival, family history, and the precariousness of relationships

Contact Marilyn Johnston for information at 905 823 3229



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