



# The GrapeVine

**Lent & Eastertide, 2016**

## **From Our Council**

February 10 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40 day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is a time for self examination, a time of fasting for many or a time of giving up something. During this time of reflection and self- discipline our thoughts go to the Refugee crisis and the people who have had to abandon all that they owned to seek safety. We are so blessed to live in Canada and you have generously shown your support for our refugee sponsorship programme. Thank you! This year we will welcome Newcomers to Mississauga and we thank Jim Bright for his leadership in this area. Erin Mills United Church, Streetsville United Church and Erindale United Church are working together to bring this to fruition. Eden United Church has also offered financial support. Please join us for a Chili Supper on February 20<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go to Refugee sponsorship.

*Margaret McCrae  
Chair of Council*

## **Fund-Raising Chili Dinner**

*With  
Dessert and Entertainment*

\$15 per person,

\$10 for children under 12

Net proceeds to the  
**Syrian Refugee Fund**

**Saturday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

**For Further Information and  
Tickets, Please Contact  
Dianne Drennan or the**

**Church Office (905)277-3656**

## **From Our Search Committee**

For several months now, Erindale's Search Committee has continued to meet regularly as we look to the future of our church, and actively seek a new minister. We have invited applications until the end of January, and may begin interviewing, though it is also possible to extend our deadline, depending on our assessment of the applications received.

We are blessed with this time to spend together with Rev. Don Parsons and are very thankful to him for sharing with us, as we discern our path and step forward to the many changes 2016 has for us, the congregation of Erindale United Church.

*Mary Patterson  
Chair  
Erindale Joint Search Committee*



### **From the Desk of Don Parsons,**

As we continue to move through this time of transition, we now also find ourselves on a pilgrimage through the season of Lent. I hope you join me in welcoming this reflective time, for it offers us precious opportunities to centre ourselves in God's nourishing presence, and thereby deepen our spiritual life. Elsewhere in this issue of "The Grapevine" you will find listed some different experiences which will hopefully help us do that (a Taize workshop, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, to name a few). It will be a privilege to share these centering moments with you. As we continue to enjoy the gift of this time together, I want you to know how grateful I am for the growing friendship between us. Your warm, faithful, and welcoming spirit continues to help Marg. and me feel at home here at Erindale. Thanks too, for all the ways you are keeping alive the creative energy which has long been the hallmark of this congregation's mission and ministry. For your prayer-filled commitment, patience, and support, the Church Council and I are very grateful indeed. The Brothers of Taize continue to affirm that "God will provide what we need." In this transitional period, as we move gently through these Lenten days and weeks, may I suggest that we allow that simple truth to have its way with us. And when, in a few weeks we approach Easter morning, let us look forward to celebrating with triumphant joy, Christ's holy presence coming alive in our midst. Indeed, God *will* provide what we need...

*Gratefully,  
Don Parsons*

### **A Lenten Reflection**

God of new stories and endless possibilities  
We admit to you that sometimes we are afraid.  
Sometimes we are afraid of new stories that  
encroach on our understanding of the world  
around us,  
Sometimes we are afraid of our neighbours,  
We say that we aren't.  
We say we don't want to be.  
We say "Can you blame me?"

Truth is God, sometimes we don't want to  
include everyone within the circle of our  
community.

Do you blame us God?

How are we to react when security is  
threatened?  
When things happen that make us feel like the  
world is out of our control?  
When we are told that there are "bad people",  
with "bad plans"?  
Do you blame us God when we see hatred in  
eyes that look at us with fear?  
Do you blame us God when we worry about  
how to protect our families, our  
neighbourhoods, our way of life?

Do you blame us, God?

No. You don't.  
But you weep for us.

You weep for us God when the anxiety and  
fear created in this world  
Make us less than we can be.  
You weep when we don't love our neighbours  
as ourselves.

Your sadness spills over, enveloping us – and  
those we fear – in your love.

May these tears be a bridge between us.

Can you help us, God?  
Help us, God

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### *Lenten Reflection - Continued from Page 2*

May your unconditional love for us envelop us  
And make us a little more courageous,  
A little more trusting,  
A little less suspicious.

May we find common ground in which to sow  
seeds of understanding and new beginnings,

May your new story take root in the thorny places  
of our world,  
The thorny places where fear and hatred flourish.

It is true that we have been hurt God. We have  
ALL been hurt.

Your children, Children of the promise,  
May we all open our hearts a little crack  
Enough to let the light stream in and illuminate  
the new story you are writing,  
The narrative involving our neighbours ... them  
... and us together.

In peace, friendship, and hope.

*- written by Rev. Jessica McCrae (alt.)*

## **UCW News**

### **Thank you**

To everyone who supported our UCW's fundraising efforts in any or many ways over the past few months. We raised a substantial amount, with the Bake Sale being particularly successful once again. In November we disbursed monies raised over the previous year to various charitable organizations, including the Mission and Service Fund, the United Church Refugee Fund, and Erindale's Refugee Fund – all thanks to the congregation's generosity. The full list of recipients of the funds we have raised will be in the Annual Report.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Garage Sale** Sat. April 23 This sale will be for **small items only** - things that one person can carry easily - No furniture or large items. Gardner Hall will be open for drop-off of items from 9 - 4 and 7 - 9 on Thurs/Fri 21/22.

**World Day of Prayer** is Friday March 4. A worship service, prepared by women from Cuba, will be held at Ebenezer Reformed Church, Glengarry Rd that evening (time not yet confirmed). Some women from our congregation along with others from several denominations in our area will take part in the service. Everyone is welcome to attend this worship service. It is not just for women.

**Halton Presbyterial Annual UCW Gathering** will be held at St. Paul's, Milton, on Sat. April 9. Hamilton Conference UCW Annual Gathering will be held on Sat. April 30 in Mississauga, at Eden United. Both are one-day events 8.30 am - approx. 3 pm. Details of speakers etc. will be available later. Notices will be posted and printed in the Bulletin.

## **Message from Worship Committee**

With Rev. Parsons, we are joyfully at work to stay true to our promise to all of you for this year of interim Ministry: to sustain our traditions while trying out of a few new things to see how they might enhance our worship. As we look into Lent and Easter, we invite you to share with each other how you plan on preparing for the gift of Easter; how will you share in Jesus' journey through the desert? How will you prepare for the new beginning and hope we receive at Easter? To help, we invite you to worship services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

May the spirit of this season give you hope and comfort.

### **Special Services in Lent**

Please invite neighbours and friends to accompany you as our Lenten journey moves us towards the Cross, and then into the triumphant joy of Easter morning.

As a way to mark our Lenten journey,  
each Sunday will include a focus on one of the symbols of the Christian faith.

Sunday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m.

We will gather for the Sacrament of Holy Communion on this first Sunday of Lent.

Palm/Passion Sunday (March 20) at 10:30 a.m.

Our Service will include the distribution of palms, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and move towards the shadows of the cross.

Maundy Thursday (March 24) at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a service reflecting the experience of the Upper Room.  
We will share a simple communion around the Table, experience gathering shadows,  
a "stripping of the altar", and leave in silence.

Good Friday (March 25) at 10:30 a.m.

We gather at the foot of the cross, as we experience the narrative of the passion.

Easter Morning (March 27) at 10:30 a.m.

The Festive Celebration of Easter  
Sermon - "Sunrise In God's Acre" (Rev. Don Parsons)

<u>Worship Schedule</u>				
Date	Season	Lectionary Reading	Sunday Service Reading	Special Events
February 14	Lent I	Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13	Luke 4: 1-13	Communion  Sermon - “When It Feels Like Wilderness”
February 21	Lent II	Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17–4:1 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36, (37–43a)	Psalm 27 Luke 13: 31-35	Sermon - “I Ask Only One Thing”
February 28	Lent III	Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–8 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9	Luke 13: 1-9	Sermon - “Yet Another Chance”
March 6	Lent IV	Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32	Colossians 3: 15-17	Annual Meeting Sunday  Sermon - “We Are God’s Living Story”
March 13	Lent V	Isaiah 43:16–21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b–14 John 12:1–8	John 12: 1 - 8	Sermon - “Invitation To A Dinner Party”
March 20	Palm/Passion Sunday	<i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Luke 19:28–40 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16 Philippians 2:5–11 Luke 22:14–23:56 or Luke 23:1–49	Luke 22: 14 - 23:56	The Distribution of Palms  Communion  Meditation - “From Cradle To Cross”
March 24	Maundy Thursday			7:30 pm Service
March 25	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13–53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9 John 18:1–19:42		10:30 am Service
March 27	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25 Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 1 Corinthians 15:19–26 or Acts 10:34–43 John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12	John 20: 1-18	Sermon - “Sunrise In God’s Acre”

## **What's next in the Bible Seminar at EUC?**

Since last September, I have been leading a monthly seminar centred on the Christian Bible as seen by United Church minister and Academic, the late Northrop Frye. Each session of the seminar is designed to be largely independent of the previous ones, so you can attend the discussion whenever you have the time and interest. The last session, particularly the repeat version on Sunday Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, was well attended and supported a lively discussion about our United Church denomination's views of the scriptures.

Just look on the EUC website's events calendar to see the dates and venue for the monthly sessions. For anyone interested in the content of past sessions, please visit my website, [www.frasercode.ca](http://www.frasercode.ca), where full transcripts and a blog are posted.

- On Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the seminar will focus on the literary aspects of the Bible, particularly on the story of Job ( see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Job\\_\(biblical\\_figure\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Job_(biblical_figure)) ).
- On March 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the seminar will consider the Easter story, and how to approach it without resort to the supernatural or the magical aspect of literature (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter> ).
- On April 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, the seminar will discuss the ideas behind concepts Heaven and Hell, the soul, the afterlife, and the real information the Bible gives about these subjects.
- Finally, on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, the seminar will conclude with a discussion of the relation between Science and Religion, with a perspective of some modern authors, both scientists and theologians.

Remember, all are welcome. Come when you can. Catch up with the proceedings of the Web. But best of all, come and have your say about what it's like to be a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century who reads and thinks about the Bible!

Fraser Code. (905) 276-2431 [www.frasercode.ca](http://www.frasercode.ca)



## **Ecumenical Worship at Taizé' France.**

With the encouragement of the Worship Committee, Rev. Don Parsons is pleased to offer a **Workshop** about the world renowned spiritual community of **Taizé** in France -- **on Sunday, February 28, beginning at 1 p.m.** During this two hour workshop we will learn something of the story of this ecumenical community, watch a video ("A Week At Taizé"), and ponder why thousands of youth gather every week at Taizé. We will also sing some of the community's beautiful prayer-songs, and conclude with a brief service of Prayer With the Songs of Taizé. Don has enjoyed four week-long visits to Taizé, and is anxious to share why this has been so transformative for him. Because this is an ecumenical centre, we suggest that you invite friends from other churches and denominations to come and learn about this

## **Membership at Erindale**

Are you interested in formalising your membership at Erindale United Church. New members can be received by transfer from another congregation, by profession of faith (for those who have never been confirmed), or by re-affirmation of faith. Speak to or email Don Parsons ([donparsons22@gmail.com](mailto:donparsons22@gmail.com)) if you would like more information.



## **Give the Gift of Life**

Blood Donor Clinics are held locally every two months on a regular basis.

Anyone, 17 and over and in good health, may donate. It takes about one hour and your donation can help save up to three lives. Erindale United has a Partners for Life number which credits your donation to our church. ERIN436289

South Common Mall - Friday, February 12: 3 - 6 pm  
Friday, April 8: 3 - 6 pm

Sheridan Mall - Friday, February 19: 3 - 6 pm  
Friday, April 29: 3 - 6 pm

An opportunity to see the  
"Extravagantly talented" artist who is  
***"Having a ball smashing the  
stereotypes of organists and organ  
music"***

## **Cameron Carpenter**

First Ontario  
Performing Arts Centre  
St Catharines  
March 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.

Rob Anderson has negotiated a **reduced  
ticket price** of \$45.00.

Should enough people show interest Rob  
will also arrange for bus transportation.  
For more details speak to Rob

## **The United Church Observer**

Founded in 1829, the Observer is the oldest continuously published magazine in North America. It contains articles of general and current interest as well as articles of interest to Christians. The letters to the editor are usually very lively.

If you wish to subscribe or renew, contact Jennifer Code at [jennifer.code@bell.net](mailto:jennifer.code@bell.net) or telephone 905 276 2431, or you may send a cheque for \$25.00 made out to Jennifer Code to:

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