

The GrapeVine

Spring 2017



The Journey of Lent: Hitting the Reset Button

Dear Friends at Erindale United,

The past couple of weeks have been a joyous flurry of activity and “firsts” – first worship service at EUC, first time meeting with various groups and committees, first time planning for Lent and Easter with this congregation. I’ve gotten to know all of you a bit, and have begun to learn your stories and what you love about this church. I look forward to building those relationships more over the coming weeks.

It is perhaps the work of the Holy Spirit that we should be starting our ministry together so close to Lent. Lent is a season that invites us to slow down, to reflect, and to reconnect with God. As a person who generally thrives on being busy and making plans, it is important for me to remember each year the story of Jesus going into the wilderness for prayer and fasting before beginning his public ministry. After being baptized, Jesus knows he is called to be the teacher and leader of his people, but instead of setting out to complete the “To-Do” list right away, he spends some time alone to ready himself for what is to come.

This Lent, through worship, prayer and perhaps some personal spiritual disciplines, I believe God is drawing us as a congregation to the wilderness – away from the busyness of our lives and all things we feel we need to get done. Before we can embark on whatever is to come in

the life of EUC – new programs, new mission, new relationships with the community – we are called to withdraw for a while – to get acquainted or reacquainted with one another and with God. We need to reflect on those temptations, those things that might get in the way of our relationship with Christ. If we are able to do this, when we emerge, we will be well equipped for the journey ahead.

In order to be fully present to what God is doing in our midst, there are a few opportunities you may wish to take advantage of this Lent. First, on March 1st, we formally began Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. From 7-8pm, there was a drop-in anytime to the sanctuary where there were prayer stations set up for people to engage with. On Ash Wednesday, we remember that we belong to God – that from dust we came, and to dust we shall return. **Sundays throughout Lent**, you might want to join us after worship for a book and Bible study – “Worship in Light of the Cross”. We’ll be looking at the scripture passages for the Lenten season and examining how they relate to worship. Lastly, toward the end of Lent, we hope you will participate in each of the Holy Week services: **Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course, Easter**. This is the holiest week in the Christian calendar and reveals to us again and again each year the power of God’s love.

I look forward to traveling with you in and out of the “wilderness” over these coming weeks. May God bless this quiet, holy time.

*Blessings,
Rev Brenna*

donparsons22@gmail.com
January 31st, 2017.

The Congregation of Erindale United Church,
c/o Ralph Nott, Chair of Council,
1444 Dundas Crescent,
Mississauga, ON L5C 1E9

Dear Erindale friends:-

How difficult it is for me to find words adequate enough to express my profound gratitude for the gracious, thoughtful affirmation which was afforded me by the congregation following the service this past Sunday. I am very grateful to the Church Council, the U.C.W., the Ministry and Personnel Committee, Rob and the Choir, and above all so many of the congregation who gathered to provide such a humbling, heart-warming experience that will linger long in my memory.

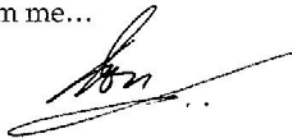
I was profoundly moved by the remarks and good wishes shared by the various committees, groups and individuals of the congregation. The colourful flowers which continue to brighten our living room, the delicious luncheon which the U.C.W. so beautifully offered for us all, and the choir's special music, all helped to create a wonderful collage of happy memories for Marg. and for me.

Thank you for the many thoughtful gifts presented to us:- the gift bag of goodies from the U.C.W., the handmade cards from the children, this fall's sermons on the USB stick, the Erindale church lapel pin, the colourfully meaningful photo of the sanctuary prepared by master photographer Doug. Johnston, the special video and delightful caricature created by Rachel Nott, and the generous gift certificate for the Canadian Opera Company. Your generosity and thoughtfulness blew me away.

It has been a joy-filled privilege to share ministry with you over the past 17 months. I will continue to follow Erindale's ministry and mission through the web site, and want to assure you of my ongoing friendship and prayerful support.

My heart is full. Thank you. With warmest good wishes, and profound gratitude from Marg., and from me...

(Rev.) Don Parsons



cc – Erindale U.C.W., Ministry & Personnel Committee, the Choir, Church Council

Chair of Council

On January 29th, the Erindale congregation said farewell to our interim minister Rev. Don. Following the service, the UCW hosted a luncheon, and various committees shared the impact Rev. Don had on their work within the church, during his 17-month transitional journey with Erindale. Members of the congregation were also able to spend time with Rev. Don, wishing him well, as he takes on new challenges. I received a letter from Rev. Don, addressed to the Erindale congregation, expressing his gratitude for the time spent at Erindale. I have included the letter in the Grapevine, but will also post it on the church bulletin board.

February marks a new chapter in the life of Erindale United. We welcomed our new Minister, Rev. Brenna Nickel to Erindale, with her first church service on February 5th. In her first sermon, Rev. Brenna described characteristics of churches, based on types of fruits. Erindale was a “peach” of a church. To learn what that means, you can listen to the sermon, by visiting the Erindale website <http://erindaleunited.church/Worship/Sermons>

Rev. Brenna comes to Erindale with excitement, and fresh ideas, ready to share with the Erindale congregation, and the wider community. She has already jumped in to the deep end of the pool, getting to know Sarah and Rob, visiting the different committee meetings, attending various church events, planning a Lenten study, and the services throughout the Lenten season.

We are privileged to have Rev. Brenna as our new minister, and I hope you take the time to introduce yourself to her listen to her ideas and vision, and to share your ideas and vision for the future of Erindale, as we work together to carry out the mission of our church within our community, and throughout the world.

Ralph Nott
Chair of Council

UCW 2016 Fall Fundraising

UCW would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our fundraising in the fall. We were able to make a very nice profit on the Pie Sales, Cranberry Apple Crisp Sales, the Used Book Sale, and the Frosty Festive Fare. Thank you also to those who bought United Church Calendars.

Because of your generosity in 2016 we were able to disburse the following monies either at the end of the year or over the course of the year:-

Erindale Refugee Support	300
Armagh House	300
Interim Place	300
The DAM - youth drop-in centre	200
Our Place Peel -homeless youth	300
The Darling Home for Kids	300
Erin Mills Breakfast Program	200
The Deacons Cupboard	200
The Open Door	300
Heart House Peel – hospice	300
Ian Anderson House – hospice	300
Sleeping Children Around the World	175
Sandy Salteaux Spiritual Centre	200
Cdn. Red Cross - Fort McMurray	500
Doctors Without Borders	200
United Church of Canada	1,000
Mission & Service Fund	1,000
The Darling Home for Kids – speaker	150
Fellowship of the Least Coin	514
Mothers’ Day - Erin Mills Breakfast Prog	275
Sleeping Children Around the World	<u>35</u>
	\$6,864

UCW News

Erindale UCW's Annual Meeting was held on Feb. 21. Following the business, refreshments were served and we welcomed several speakers from 'Friends of Britannia Schoolhouse' who introduced us to a recently published book on the history of one and two roomed schoolhouses in Peel. They spoke about the ones which were in our vicinity including some sites which are still in use but are not the original buildings - e.g. the old 'Visual Arts' building on Mississauga Rd which now belongs to UTM.

Our thanks to Gary Jenkins for reviewing our Financial Records and to Sarah Mc Ewing for printing copies of our report.

Halton Presbyterial UCW Annual Gathering is being held at Eden United in Mississauga on Sat. March 25 with registration and coffee/muffins between 8.30 and 9 am. The guest presenter is Janice Gillespie who will speak on her work with Sleeping Children Around the World. Entertainment will be by 'Eden Bells aPeel' handbell group.

Cost for the day incl. lunch is \$20 and our UCW usually pays part of this for those attending from Erindale. Please let Pat Jenkins know by March 17 if you wish to go.

World Day of Prayer was held on March 3 at St. Thomas a Becket Anglican Church. three women from Erindale participated along with representatives from most of the churches of various denominations in our Erindale/Woodlands/Erin Mills area. The worship service, put together by women from The Philippines, was attended by a number of our congregation.



Erindale welcomes Rev. Brenna



The hard working chefs at our February Chili supper:
Peter Keller, Dianne Drennan, Sandra Wiseman,
Rachel Nott

Visit Our 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 GARAGE SALE, SAT. APRIL 22

GARDNER HALL

8 am - noon

ITEMS RECEIVED THURS 20/FRI 21

9 am - 4 pm and 6 - 8 pm

Acceptable items:

crystalware, vases, cake plates, dishes, jewellery,
all kinds of housewares, tools, books, picture frames, other trinkets & knick-knacks,
etc. golf, tennis, and other sports equipment (see below), purses, kitchen linens, toys,
and games

Items we cannot take:

Winter goods-skates, skis, etc., footwear, clothing of any kind, bedding, baby Items:-
cribs, playpens, mattresses,
car seats, plush toys; upholstered furniture-large or small.
Old or out-of-date electronic items which should go to electronic recycling

Before you consider any donation, if it cannot fit
in the back of a car, or be easily carried, we are unable to accept it

We would be grateful for any help in this fundraising effort from the congregation -
sorting, selling, or clean-up.

Look for sign-up sheet on the notice board in April.

Contacts: Marilyn Hurst, Dianne Drennan, Ann Edge



The Group meets for Friday
Morning coffee at 10.00 a.m.



From the Music Director

Dear Friends:

It is with great excitement that I look forward to observing the season of Lent and celebrating Easter Day with the church family at Erindale as we welcome our new Minister, The Rev. Brenna Nichol to our church. We were very blessed to have The Rev. Don Parsons lead us through the past year and a half, and it was always a pleasure to work with him. I believe it was “Divine Intervention” that he was finishing up an Interim ministry at Eden United Church just as we were about to begin the search for an appropriate Interim Minister to lead us for the next year or so as our search committee discerned what direction we wanted to go theologically, and then began the long tedious process of interviewing candidates for the position.

Oftentimes, during these interim times in a church congregation, there is a substantial drop in attendance, less events (like congregational dinners, etc.), and the overall mood of the congregation seems dark and dreary. That was definitely not the case with Rev. Parsons. The congregation remained strong and engaged in all the services and other activities; even adding a few new things along the way, which is a good sign that we are open to change and exploring new and different ways to share our faith and grow as Christians.

I look forward to sharing in ministry with Rev. Brenna, and trust that you will be supportive in the “EUC Spirit” that gives our congregation the reputation of friendliness and welcome.

The choir enjoyed observing “Black History Month” by singing several “Spirituals” such as “Deep River” and “Wade in the Water”, and will open the season of Lent with “Were You There” on Lent 1. Thursday evenings are always a pleasure working together with the choir. They are very loyal and are never afraid of a challenge.

Over the past several months, the choir has learned a number of Hymns and Songs from “More Voices” as well as some lesser known selections from “Voices United” which we have used in worship. I look forward to using some of these new materials with Psalm 98 in upcoming blended services.

We are all looking forward to hearing Psalm 98 again in the near future. Unfortunately, they have had to take some time off as Steve Code, the keyboard player and leader of the band has been ill. I ask that you support Steve with your prayers as he continues to recuperate.

Several of the members of the church have asked that I play a longer prelude before the services so, to that end, the choir has agreed to begin their warm-ups 15 minutes earlier on Sunday mornings. Thank you to the choir for being willing to come in earlier on Sundays to make this possible.

Of course, the choir is always welcoming to new choristers. Consider joining us on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 9:45 a.m.. A warm welcome awaits you...

Rob Anderson

SAVE THE DATE – ERINDALE EMPORIUM

The second annual Erindale Emporium **Saturday, November 4th, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm** at Erindale United Church is the perfect opportunity to get into the Christmas mood by being creative and make something that you and your family can sell at the Emporium. Salsa anyone!

This year will feature tables for new items to sell such as: soap, cards, jewelry, art work, jams/preserves, knitted & crocheted items, baked goods, hand-made clothes/fashion wear, stained glass, ceramics, floral arrangements/wreaths, tie dye/batik, pet items, candles, home-made candy, crafts, etc.

The plan is to have 25 tables available for our Erindale congregation and friends as well as outside artisans to display their merchandise for sale.

How can you help? Spread the news about the Erindale Emporium on November 4. It's a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to get involved, have fun and support the church!

Please contact **Steve Wykurz**, swykurz2001@rogers.com to find out more and reserve a table **by June 30** as we're hoping to have most of the tables by the Erindale congregation and friends before reaching out to outside vendors.



Roses laid on the Memorial Stones in our garden

Worship

A warm, friendly welcome always awaits you at Erindale.

Sunday, March 5 - 10:30 a.m.

The First Sunday of Lent
Communion will be served

Sunday, April 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday - Communion will be served

Thursday April 13 - 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service
Communion will be served

Friday April 14 - 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday Service.

Sunday, April 16 - 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, May 14 - 10:30 a.m.

Christian Family Day/ Mother's day
Children and Youth service
Communion will be served

Erindale United Church

1444 Dundas Crescent, Mississauga, ON. L5C 1E9

Phone: 905 277 3656 Fax 905 277 3657

www.erindaleunited.org

Minister: The Rev. Brenna Lea Nickel email: minister@erindaleunited.church

Director of Music: Robert Anderson email: erindaleunitedmusic@gmail.com.

Psalm 98 Music Program: psalm98@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Sarah McEwing email: churchoffice@erindaleunited.church

Grapevine Submissions to: erindalegrapevine@gmail.com