

Trinity reflections - Lent - Easter 2019

One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said *"I always park there! You took my place!"*

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated *"That's my seat! You took my place!"*

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the Sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said *"That's where I always sit! You took my place!"*

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell amongst them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars appeared on his hands and sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed this and called out, *"What happened to you?"*

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye – *"I took your place."*

Let's always remember at Easter "Who Took Our Place". (forwarded by Judy Harvey-Isaac)



Welcome:

You, our many visitors and newest members provide much joy for us at Trinity. We are blessed to have you with us. Thanks be to God.

Some statistics from the Rev Steven's notes:

2017 – Of ten (10) visitors, 4 became active members, and the other 6 are with us on occasion

2018 – Of twelve (12) visitors, 9 became active members (sadly, 3 have moved out of province and one to extended care). 3 others are with us on occasion.

2019 –We have to date nine (9) visitors of which 3 have become active members and the rest have been with us for one or two services.

Our parish has grown by 12 new members over the past 2+ yrs. We celebrate each of you, our newest members – you know who you are and thank you for enriching our lives at Trinity. Please see myself or others if you would like to share your gifts in which ever ministry God is calling you towards. God's Blessing to you all. Rev. Steven Scribner.

Parishioner Profiles:

This past month, one of Trinity's newest members, Jessica Hunt, left our shores for home in Newfoundland as her boyfriend, Lyndon accepted an Engineering position with a firm in St. John's.

Jessica found Trinity about one year ago and was warmly greeted and received by those who she met of our parish family. It shows how just one person can make such a difference to those who visit with us in search of a church community. In her words to me prior to leaving she wrote;

*"Just wanted to take this opportunity to say how thankful I am for everything you and the whole parish has done for me during my time here in Saint John, I really enjoyed worshipping at Trinity Church and have made some great friends. Trinity church has welcomed me with open arms and I feel very blessed to have been a part of this community during my time here. Trinity is a very special place!
I hope to come back for a visit sometime in the future. Again, thank you. Jessica Hunt"*

On behalf of Trinity, Rev. Steven Scribner thanked Jessica for her friendship and wished her and Lyndon all the best in their next part of God's journey for them. She was presented with a small token on behalf of Trinity, a Book of Blessings. Till we meet again, God's blessing on Jessica and Lyndon.

Happenings at Trinity:



Trinity has many saints within our parish family, and we, the Trinity family wish to express our thanks for our honorary Irish patron, Margaret McCully who annually makes sure we never forget our Irish heritage. Thank you for the delicious lunch and sing-song following our morning service. Your loving attention to detail was well appreciated. Thank you from your parish family.

From Steve Bell's 'Pilgrim Year' series he shared some light on Saint Patrick's life;

- His father was a deacon and his grandfather a priest.
- At the age of sixteen, he was enslaved for six years in Ireland following which he escaped and made his way home and attended to his Christian faith.
- Patrick was a slave-shepherd to become a servant-shepherd – which earned him the title of the beloved Patron Saint of Ireland.

There are a few legends surrounding Saint Patrick's life with the most interesting being that of the three-leaf shamrock which he is reported to have used as an aid to teach the mystery of God's triune life. A pagan symbol in itself, the three leaves refer to triple goddesses, with the green representing eternity and new life. Patrick used the symbolism to share the Holy Trinity in whose image we are created to be persons in a community of love.

Thank you Margaret for reminding us of our ancestor roots or those of us who wish we were Irish. Note: My wife, Heather recently gave me the Ancestor DNA kit which I followed through – and the results are: 64% English, Welsh and Northwestern European. 33% Irish and Scottish.

Not surprising as my Mother's father's family were from Belfast Ireland and the Scribner's are United Empire Loyalists. – Saint Patrick's Day is in my DNA and I thank Margaret for keeping this Irish heritage present.

Words to live by:



“Forgive and Forget” – how many times have we heard this?

When we struggle with forgiveness we lock ourselves in the moment and make it difficult or sometimes impossible to move forward.

I would suggest that when we struggle with forgiveness we are hurting ourselves much more than those we should forgive.

During the 4th Sunday in Lent, the Gospel focused on the parable of the ‘Prodigal Son’ or as I suggested should be renamed as the parable of the ‘Loving Father’ who exemplifies the ultimate forgiveness of our Father in Heaven. No matter what we do in this life, our Father will always be there for us as long as we approach him sincerely and try to live our lives in likeness. Have you ever felt the relief in your lives when you actually forgave someone for what was said or done? Now imagine the feeling you will have knowing that your Father has forgiven you.

Abe Lincoln, when asked how he was going to treat the rebellious southerners after their defeat and return to the Union of the United States replied, *“ I will treat them as if they had never been away.”*

“God is good but it comes at a cost – we must be good to one another” George Bush, Snr

Go ahead and change your future – our time here has limits, don't waste a moment – forgive.

Spiritual Reflections:

Mothering Sunday



Mothering Sunday is a holiday celebrated by Christians in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some other Anglophone countries on the fourth Sunday in Lent.

Its' origin dates back to the day when most young women who would have left home to work as domestic servants, were given this one day off per year to go home and visit their mothers.

On this day, carnations are given to show our love and respect for our mothers. Red or pink for those mothers who are still with us and white for our mothers who have passed.

This 17th century custom in England would have Christians returning on the 4th Sunday in Lent to their Mother Church where they were baptized. Also

known as Misers or Mid Lent on this Sunday they would usually include a visit to one's parents – to go “a-mothering” as it was called.

We were blessed on the 4th Sunday in Lent to have two Simnel cakes by three of our go-to bakers, Linda & Helen Webb and Margaret McCully.

The Simnel Cake – which is similar to a white fruit cake with 2 layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and the other on top was the choice dessert for this pre-Easter period in the United Kingdom and Ireland dating back to the mediaeval times. On top, the cakes are adorned with eleven (11) marzipan balls representing eleven (11) Apostles of Christ. (Judas was not included) Simnel comes from the Latin word – Simila which refers to ‘fine white flour’.

Thank you Linda, Helen and Margaret for your wonderful treat during Trinity Social on Mothering Sunday.

Trinity Ambassadors

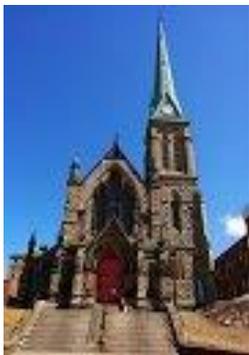
“The Vision of Trinity Church is to be a Warm, Attractive and Thriving Christian Community”. In simple we at Trinity are –WAT? – (not a typo) W – Warm, A = Attractive, and T = Thriving – Christian community.

Warm – speaks to being close to each other – we care for each other, ensuring everyone is valued and making sure we invite and embrace our newest members into our family.

Attractive – focuses on the programs and services we present, promote professionally our ministries, prioritize our time, talents and treasures so that we offer programing suited for our church family.

Thriving – requires us to be attentive to the financial aspects of Trinity's ministry in order to support the programs, the building and the staffing in order that Trinity is here for the long term.

How are each of us doing with this identification statement of who we all are as individuals and as a parish?



Corporation News:

The Trinity Steeple Tower restoration project will commence April 15th with contractor, Coastal Restoration & Masonry Ltd. working with Estabrooks Engineering Inc. as engineer and site supervision and Fundy Engineering for material testing. Your Trinity Steeple Committee, Christopher Waldschutz, Derek Oland, Phillip Christie Terry Hutchinson and Rev. Steven Scribner have worked diligently over the past two years to prepare the project. The committee is grateful for the hard work and support of Jacqueline Oland, Chair of Fundraising, and members of her team, raising the funds necessary for Phase 1 to commence on

schedule.

Phase 1 will see the South and East faces of the Steeple Tower masonry restored at a projected cost of \$484,985 which includes the primary contractor, support contracting and project site supervision and contingency. Phase 2, which will address the North and West faces of the Steeple Tower scheduled for 2020 and will require an additional \$376,307. Phase 3 as designed will have internal structural elements added for an estimated project cost of \$219,482.

Vestry Highlights – March 19, 2019

Financial

- Total Operating Income – on plan
- Expenses
 - Salaries and Benefits – (\$0.7k) (Timing of paying Workers Comp.)
 - Programs - (\$3,3k) (paid 50% of 2018 reduction to Diocese)
 - Office & Administration (\$1k)
 - Utilities (\$5.6k) – Increased costs temp. electric heat Trinity Centre
 - Maintenance – on plan
 - Financing on plan
 - Total Expenses (\$10k)
- Recovery of Steeple Cladding emergency repair in the works between Diocese and Trinity insurance. Total cost \$4,609.20 with recovery of \$2,973.36.
- Peter Josselyn was appointed Finance Chairman succeeding the financial leadership of Christopher Waldshutz who guided Trinity through the past two years.

Trinity Centre Natural Gas Heating

The plans are in place to evaluate the most cost effective approach addressing the Natural Gas furnace exhaust ducting. The 2019 budget carries a sum of \$10,000 to address this item.

Web Page Administrator

Trinity has been extremely appreciative of the work, effort and time Laurelle has put into setting up and maintaining the Trinity Web Page. Trinity needs to take over the the Web Page administrator position by spring. Please consider this role and if interested contact the office at 693-8558

Trinity Summer Guided Tours

Trinity did not proceed with the Provincial and Federal funded summer student program for 2019 based upon the need for Trinity supervision. In order for Trinity doors to be open for tours, it will require Trinity parishioners to volunteer. There are eighty scheduled cruise ships destined for our port city this year.

A listing of the boat arrival/tour dates are included in the weekly service bulletins and you can volunteer by calling the church office 693-8558.

Handi-Bus

Transportation by the city's Handi Bus operates on the 1st Sunday of each month, Feb thru May. In addition Easter Sunday has been added to the schedule. This service will be suspended for June, July and August with the intent to start up in September through December. Please let the office know if you would like to take advantage of this service.

Bishop's Walk

Each of the past years, Bishop David Edwards has walked a portion of the Diocese where he and others walk from parish to parish talking to those who walk with him and stopping at various locations of interest, special parish programs, meals and sleeping over night at various churches.

This year, the Bishop's walk is through the Saint John and Kennebecasis Deanery. The plans for Trinity will see the Bishop and walkers arriving at the church mid to late afternoon Friday May 31st, staying overnight and leave Saturday, June 1st for Kingston. More information will become available in the near future. **Important to note:** *This will occur when Rev. Steven Scribner is out of the country. Trinity will need a lead person or persons to take charge in lieu of Rev. Steven Scribner*

Trinity Outreach:



Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance. Today, knitters and crocheters of all faiths are creating handmade shawls for people in need, as gifts of comfort, hope and peace. Beth Lawson, in her parish ministry, had a number of knitters who provided her with a supply of prayer shawls that she would bless and present to those she met at home, hospital or care facilities. These shawls provide much comfort to those she spent time with and become a very visible reminder that others do care and pray for them.

On Mothering Sunday we blessed two Prayer Shawls during our service by joining hands and forming a physical prayer chain. Through this we connected all our prayers to those who knitted the Prayer Shawls and asked for the power of the Holy Spirit that lives and breathes within us to also rest in these shawls and through them to the lives that they will comfort.

We are blessed by having some knitters join this Prayer Shawl Ministry, Roxana Hodgins, Marie Goguen and Margaret McCully and give thanks to Marie Marsen who left us for Toronto last fall.

There are Prayer Shawl kits, (knitting needles, instructions and yarn) available for those who wish to be part of this Ministry – please see the Incumbent or Church Office to receive your supplies.

Trinity Property Update

New Business

Parish Nurse – the plan to pursue hiring a Parish Nurse is still outstanding at this time – position description to be developed along with securing salary funding prior to moving forward.

Greeters / Sides Persons Roles

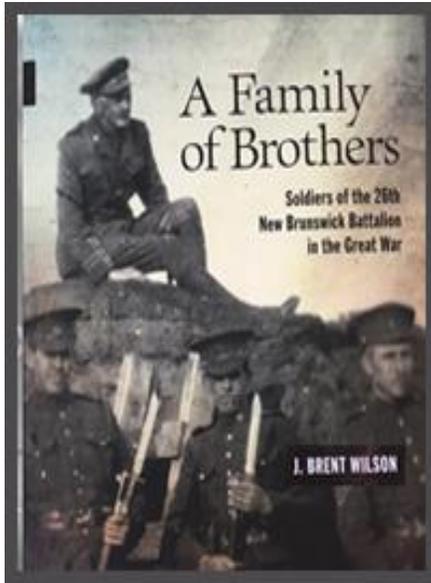
It is very important to provide a strong presence of Trinity Greeters / Sides Persons on Sundays as well as on special services and concerts to extend the “*Trinity Connection*” with those visiting. A Sides Person is available at the Chancel Stairs during Eucharist to assist those as needed.

A piece of our History:

Books and Authors of note:

As padre of the RUSI (Brunswicker Officer’s Organization) I am impressed by their monthly guest speakers.

In February 2019, J. Brent Wilson (teacher of military history at UNB and Editor Emeritus of the Gregg Centre’s New Brunswick Military Heritage Project) authored a new writing titled, “*A Family of Brothers; Soldiers of the 26th New Brunswick Battalion in the Great War.*”



Dedicated to the soldiers who served in the 26th New Brunswick Battalion during the Great War, this book provides the reader with stories from the soldiers' perspective with many personal reflections and letters home to loved ones and family during the war. Thanks to writers such as J. Brent Wilson for keeping the memory of those who gave all for our freedom – ones they would never ever know.

Trinity Worship in the community 2019

Chateau de Champlain

Trinity holds Holy Communion service with residents and friends of the Chateau on the **4th Monday of each month at 11 am.**

I would like to extend an invitation to members of Trinity to enrich this service by attending. I have always been encouraged by active parish members joining in on these services. Your presence provides a wonderful atmosphere for those who may not get out to church due to their current life styles. In conversations with those who attend I find all are anxious to share their connection with Trinity and the wider Anglican community in this city. Your presence would certainly be welcomed.

The next service is **April 22nd at 11:00 am** in the Chateau de Champlain chapel on the third floor. Please consider coming out and joining this service.

Bible Study

Wednesday morning Bible Study **9:30 to 11:00 am** will wrap up on April 3rd having spent the past four weeks exploring what our Baptism has meant to us, most of us having been infant Baptized.

From April 15th through to Oct 15th, while the Trinity Steeple Construction is underway, the Wednesday morning Bible Studies will be suspended.

I would be open to a bag lunch style Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1-2pm in replacement of the Wednesday morning time slot. – Rev, Steven Scribner



Days Gone By:

Can you guess what this contraption is? Yes, it is a horse and horseman, but what was the sleigh modified to be?

This is a school bus from an earlier day. One of the comments noted that the ride would have been a lot smoother than a ride in the new buses over the existing paved roads!

As a member of the Kingston Historical Society, at a recent Saturday morning meeting there were a number of artifacts revealed. One such artifact was a vintage "School Van" sign – signifying its' use.

The Macdonald Consolidated School in Kingston, NB was the first Consolidated School built in New Brunswick. The first one built in the Atlantic Provinces was near Spring Hill, NS. The Macdonald Tobacco Company's' famed business owner, Sir William Macdonald, was passionate that there had to be an improved model for rural community education by moving from the multiple one room school house to a consolidated school building model. This change would also involve the paying of school teachers and provide a method of transportation. The first Kingston Macdonald Consolidated School, grades 1 through 11 (9-11 were the high-school grades – no grade 12 at this time) was constructed far over budget at a cost of \$20,000 in 1904 only to succumb to a fire in 1909. Like all good things, it was rebuilt, ready to use the following year.

Originally the operators of these horse drawn school vans (later replaced with motorized trucks with covered backs for the bad weather) were privately owned. The drivers were recorded as being paid \$12.00 a month in the 1950's.

I have a number of original account statements / receipts of my grandparents indicating in June 2, 1926 County Tax \$4.62, City Taxes \$7.04 and School Purposes \$6.82 for a total of \$18.48 with a 5% discount for early payment. SGS

Humour – the Lighter Side of Seriousness

Give me a sense of humour, Lord. Give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humour out of life, and pass it on to other folks.

