

The Trinity Times

The many faces of The Reverend Canon Harold Percy: A look back at the ministry of Trinity Streetsville's rector October 1987—September 2010

A Vision-Caster

- Developed a vision for Trinity: "Coming in, growing up, reaching out"
- Coined the motto: "*A community of ordinary people, learning to follow Jesus in our time*"
- Focused on small groups—started LIFE Groups (Lyman Coleman & Serendipity Bible discussion questions, conferences and training leaders)
- Constantly focused on being "mission-minded"
- Led congregation through devastating loss from fire and reconstruction by holding out the vision of "rising from the ashes"



A Teacher/Evangelist

- Harold preached inspiring sermons that:
 - were consistently challenging
 - focused on the commitment to saying "yes" to God
 - included topical sermon series
 - featured fill-in-the-blank guides
 - didn't follow the lectionary
- Developed and taught *Christianity 101* (Christian Basics) course, eventually making a video of it that sold more than 350 copies to other churches in North America
- Developed and taught *Following Jesus: First Steps* (Christianity 201)
- **Director of Wycliffe Institute of Evangelism** for nine years, teaching courses, developing and leading workshops for clergy/lay leaders locally & nationally
- Founded Trinity's **Centre for Congregational Development**, developing and leading workshops for clergy/lay leaders as part of Trinity's commitment to share our expertise

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- Taught Lenten courses and Bible studies
- Developed and taught a unique membership course, "What am I getting into?" that helped build a strong core of committed members who understand the DNA of Trinity and our shared ministry

An author

- Wrote three books (*Following Jesus: First Steps on the Way*, *Good News People: Evangelism for Tongue-tied Christians* and *Your Church Can Thrive*) sharing

positive and practical advice on developing strong followers of Jesus

- Wrote “Sharing the Faith” column in The Anglican Journal

A pastor

- Harold wasn’t your typical “visitor for tea,” but a wise counselor
- Developed and empowered lay leaders and ministers to provide congregational care (Stephen Ministers, Director of Congregational Care)

An innovator

- Developed innovative worship services by changing the style, liturgy, music (no organ or processional choirs), and using skits and humour
- “The worst thing you can do is to make worship boring!”
- Started a family service seated in-the-round in the Parish Hall
- Partnership with John and Judith MacDonald for music and drama resulted in a growing and thriving church
- Focused on the newcomer welcoming program early on, with wine and cheese newcomer events

A builder

- Celebrated 150th Anniversary of Trinity in 1991
- Attendance continued to grow 1991-95 to overflow capacity in the 160-seat original church building, necessitating holding Christmas Eve services in the ballroom of the Delta Hotel and Easter services at the Meadowvale Theatre
- Thought “outside the box”—when space was an issue in 1995, he led an exploration into renovating an industrial site
- Created a satellite worship service—a fourth worship service on Sunday mornings at Hazel McCallion Senior Public School started October 15, 1995. “St. Hazel’s” later became our primary worship space during renovations and fire rebuilding, until September 2000
- Led yearly stewardship campaigns that focused on developing a healthy attitude about money and generosity as a sign of spiritual growth
- Led two building fund campaigns, raising money for renovations and again for fire reconstruction
- Led the congregation through the devastating loss from fire and reconstruction as we met in temporary locations
- Led the congregation through the difficult process of forgiving the arsonist, which culminated in a

service of “Giving and Forgiving,” when the arsonist apologized to the congregation, on April 25, 1999



- Led the congregation into a new phase of growth with opening of the new church on September 10, 2000

A mission-minded leader

- Always encouraged us to look outwards, to those not yet within our walls, to the needs of the community and the world, and not be inward-focused on ourselves
- In 1994-5, initiated a community needs survey that led to the establishment of The Dam Youth Drop-In. The first information meeting for Heart Touching Heart Ministries was held March 20, 1995.
- Cultivated a fruitful partnership with World Vision:
 - In 1998, fundraising to finance nine homes in Honduras (after Hurricane Mitch) led to the establishment of a computer training school, and another six mission trips to Honduras to build more houses.
 - In 2004, launched and led the “Hazel’s Hope” campaign with Mississauga Mayor and Trinity parishioner Hazel McCallion, to raise funds for HIV/AIDS work in Tanzania
 - On October 29, 2007 led a team to the Dominican Republic to establish a partnership there, in which Trinity helped provide financial support for an early childhood education centre.
 - Encouraged and promoted child sponsorship within the congregation resulting in over 300 children being sponsored.



And some thoughts from the man himself...



Proudest accomplishments: **I don't** know if I really list things in terms of most or biggest or worst, etc. It has just all been a pretty good time with very nice people in a wonderful church.

One of the good things is that we managed to change the DNA of Trinity so that it has the unique feeling that it does; that had to do with changing from the traditional form of worship to something more informal. **People tend to say "contemporary" when they refer to this, but it isn't really contemporary in any way that I understand that word;** but we are less formal, more relaxed than more traditional Anglican churches and I think it makes for a more welcoming atmosphere, and for me, an atmosphere more conducive to worship and prayer. I always have the sense **that important stuff is happening in people's lives during our worship services,** and I love that!

I'm also glad we were able to put together the Christianity 101 and Following Jesus courses over the years, and that so many people have taken them, and I am thrilled for all the people who have come to faith through our ministry throughout the years, and for all those for whom church attendance has been transformed into the adventure of following Jesus and growing discipleship.

As well, I'm pleased that we have been able to develop some significant outreach projects over the years in partnership with World Vision, which has helped us to develop a more global perspective.

Of course, I need to pay special tribute and express appreciation for the staff over the years who have been so magnificent, especially Diane Toycen, who has been with me since year one, and Shirley Burgess, who joined a couple of years later, and John and Judith MacDonald with their music and drama. All of them made such a huge difference in the **process of transforming this church many years ago. I'll stop there, as it's difficult to name names without the danger of leaving someone out.**

Greatest challenges: There have been lots of challenges—changing the DNA of the congregation was pretty challenging; at times, in the early going, it got pretty vicious, but I am glad that we were able to stay the course and make the changes.

The building and fire and rebuilding process was a real challenge: those were very difficult days, but most people stayed with us throughout and helped us keep our focus and not get

fixated on the building itself—we were even able to develop a major project in Honduras during that time.

Establishing and leading the Institute of Evangelism at Wycliffe College, teaching courses and traveling widely throughout the country speaking at seminars, conferences, etc., while trying to lead Trinity to continued growth and get a building project going was a real challenge that I think took more out of me than I realized at the time. I was always on the go, and I think my family paid a pretty big price in terms of my absence, both physically and mentally. Sometimes now, those years just seem like a big blur.

Regrets—**he's had a few:** I would have liked to have spent more time getting to know the parishioners on a more personal level and to have done more personal spiritual coaching with people. I would have liked to have spent more time in leadership development with both staff and parishioners.

I don't really remember any embarrassing moments, although I am sure there must have been many; or at least, times that I should have been embarrassed if I wasn't. But maybe that's one of the benefits of getting older: the memory becomes more selective!

On the horizon: I want to develop a little ministry offering coaching to younger clergy who want it, and do some work with parishes on getting refocused for ministry or having a ministry tune-up, and maybe do some parish missions, and teaching in discipleship and stewardship. I think the church is badly in need of all these and I think maybe I can be of some help.

I do want to emphasize how much I owe to so many people at Trinity through the years, who have encouraged me and worked so hard in so many areas, giving so generously of their time and talents and money to make this the church it has become. I am constantly aware of how little I am able to do on my own, and of how much has been done by all the committed people who have worked together to help this church thrive. It amazes me what people are willing to do for the sake of the gospel and their church—I am so indebted to so many of whom I am in awe.

My greatest desire for Trinity is that it will go on from one degree of glory to another, helping people come to faith and grow to holistic maturity in Christ and to shine like a light in this city for the glory of Christ. I know that can happen and I look forward to seeing it!



Meet our new rector on September 12



Mark Leach, our new rector, will arrive from Melbourne, Australia with his family in early August. Mark, Margo, and their children Oliver (10) and Freya (8) have found a

home in the Streetsville area off Mississauga Road near Highway 403. They'll spend the first weeks just getting used to the city and establishing themselves.

On August 16, Mark will start settling into the office routine, meeting with staff and other Trinity leaders. A staff planning retreat is already scheduled for September 1 and 2.

Then on **Sunday, September 12**, when we return to our 8, 9:15 and 11:15 service format, Harold will come back to introduce Mark to the congregation in an interview format. You won't want to miss that Sunday!

But that's just the beginning of the fun on the 12th – stick around and attend our Together Again BBQ in the late afternoon!

A new twist for the Together Again BBQ

After summer holidays are over, school resumes, and we return to our regular worship schedule, our Trinity congregation likes to gather together for a relaxing time of fellowship around food, conversation and intergenerational activities.

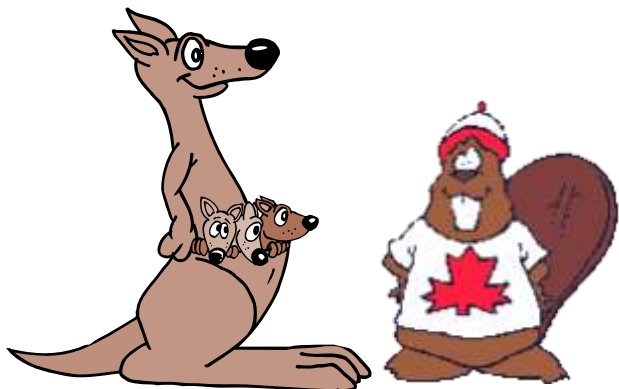
That's what the "Together Again BBQ" is all about. But this September we will also be welcoming our new rector, Mark Leach and his family...not just to Trinity, but to Canada as well. There will be lots of new things – cultural, geographical and linguistic – for them to experience and learn. We may also need to learn something about Australia in order to understand them sometimes!

Therefore, our theme for the Together Again BBQ this year will focus on things Aussie/Canadian, with games and activities to enhance the dialogue and acculturation process. Face painting for the kids will be a highlight again this year.

We'll gather on the back lawn to meet and greet one another on **September 12** from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. If you're coming, please bring a salad or dessert to share. **Sign up for the BBQ begins in August.** The cost is \$3.00 per person or \$10 per family.

Plan now to come and welcome the Leaches!



True discipleship = Kingdom Living

By Laura Leavens

“The first step in practicing Kingdom living is to know you are loved,” said the Rev. Lance Dixon at the first of four Wednesday evenings this spring spent inspiring Trinity parishioners to true discipleship.

“True discipleship,” said Trinity’s former associate priest, “is centred on the goal of participating more fully in the Kingdom of God, which requires cultivating a holistic redemptive vision for ministry.”

The course was jammed with spiritual nuggets. Here are a few:

- Discipleship is not based on competency but on grace.
- It’s not what we do for God, but what God chooses to do for us.
- In seeking His Kingdom we get in way over our heads.
- Don’t rejoice at what you’ve seen but that your names are written in the Book of Heaven.
- The objective of discipleship should be about the fruits of the spirit.
- The framework by which we practice Kingdom living is cultivating commitment.
- Idols are nothing less than competing loyalties in our lives.
- We join in the struggle of what’s at war with God.

Seeking the Kingdom is a transformative experience for us; it is an inward and outward change.

Guiding principles of Kingdom Living

- The church is not the point; the Kingdom of God is the point.
- The Kingdom of God presupposes a biblical worldview.
- Four Kingdom virtues are commitment, compassion, conviction, and character, which result in a renovation of the heart and working it out.
- Since people in the world resist God’s message, we need to hold fast and not be surprised. Some people don’t have a spiritual need if they have a home and job; some people have spiritual conflict and can’t hear the message; some people are held captive by Satan. But it doesn’t inhibit us from working out the Gospel.

People in the world resist God’s message, but it doesn’t inhibit us from working out the Gospel.

You must be attached to the vine to experience God’s redemptive love in our lives. We’ll only go as far in discipleship as our love goes for Jesus. We need to live the abundant life through Christ. That life is eternal and joyful – so feel excited about what we’re doing. Let it be organic and emerge out of our walk with Christ.



SonQuest Rainforest VBS is coming to Trinity this summer!

Trinity's Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2010 is off to an amazing start! Thirty full-day spots were filled in only 10 days and an additional 10 full-days spots were filled only a week later. The 40 full-day campers will be joined by about 25 half-day campers for a week of fun and excitement as we get "wild" about Jesus' love for each and every one of us.

With programming based on John 3:16, campers will rotate through craft, games and Bible story stations, with all campers coming together for the ever-popular snack station.

Volunteers, both adult and youth (post-Grade 7) are still needed for VBS and for our complementary summer Sunday morning program, Parable Quest. Using a format similar to VBS, each Sunday morning children will learn about one of the parables Jesus taught his disciples, and how to apply it to their lives, as a young follower of Jesus.

How You Can Support VBS 2010

- ⇒ Pray for the volunteers and the kids attending the camp
- ⇒ Volunteer for a day, or the week to help during camp
- ⇒ Assist with decorating (or un-decorating) the church
- ⇒ Lend the VBS team decorating items, such as camp shelters, large wicker baskets, etc. Keep an eye on the Bulletin over the next couple of weeks for specific requirements

Contact Heather or Heidi in Children's Ministry for details on how you can help!



Kid's garage sale

Our second annual garage sale was a super success. Final totals are now in, and we raised \$618.28 for the World Vision school that Trinity supports in the Dominican Republic. Thank you to everyone who donated items, and to those who came to shop and generously supported this initiative.



Saima Williams, with sons Matthew and Seth showoff the new toys that they bought at the garage sale.



Jessica Stevenson gets to work organizing the many donations.

(See you at next year's sale!)

Travelling the Road to Forgiveness:

Trinity's 2010 Women's Retreat *by Laura Leavens*

On June 12 and 13, 51 ladies, including 11 from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, walked down *The Road to Forgiveness* at this year's retreat at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls.

The Rev. Carol Langley opened her teaching by saying, "There are two branches to forgiveness: forgiving, and being forgiven by God." To demonstrate, she became Chloe, the prodigal daughter, who rebelled, took her inheritance, lost it, and returned where "love embraced her and didn't tell her off... because that's what Abba's like: He just forgives and we can get on with our lives."

Carol stated that we have "no inherent right to be heard by God, and if our heart has bitterness, we have a barrier between God and us." Furthermore, "the less we're able to appreciate God's forgiveness, the less we're able to forgive others." To not forgive is to be imprisoned by the past, to be in another's control, as if a handcuff is locked around our wrist and theirs:

"Forgiveness is about giving up the resentment you're entitled to and offering grace that they're not entitled to."

The retreat wasn't all listening. Small group discussion allowed for sharing and application of what was learned. Teaching and discussion was interspersed with worship music, prayer, a meditation exercise, making stepping stones and witness bracelets, walks by the Falls, walking the labyrinth, watching a movie, chatting and eating—lots of it! Sunday morning's service in the chapel saw Carol bring to life the woman at the well, after which each participant served Communion to another.

Old friendships were rekindled, new ones established, and tummies filled. Long-time organizer Diane Fisher says, "I consider it a privilege to be able to offer a safe place for women of faith to come together, share and offer support to each other. We truly are sisters in Christ."

A note from the editor Reflections on change

I'm not a fan of change. I've had the same minivan for seven years, the same house for 11 years and the same husband for 25 years. I wore a shirt the other day that I've had since high school. The same is good.

But sometimes I can't avoid change. Jobs have disappeared from under my feet. My cute little kids vanished mysteriously, to be replaced by adults who only slightly resemble them. And who the heck is that woman in the mirror?

But often, change is good. New surroundings stimulate creativity. Going at a problem from a different angle can produce a solution. When plants stop growing, they start dying. And, assuming none of us start from a position of perfection, our walk with Christ is a process of gradual change, as we are transformed into the people we were meant to be. (At times I feel like I'm going in circles instead of making progress, but then I reflect that one sees a lot more of the world by taking the detours than

by sticking to the expressway.)

So here we are at Trinity, on the cusp of a big change that's beyond the control of any one individual. But how we react to this change is entirely within our power. We can be energized by looking forward to new ideas and new challenges, or dragged down by clinging to the "good old days."



When you think about it, this congregation is actually pretty good at changing. In the 16 years I've been at Trinity, we've had six wonderful associate priests, four (I think) music directors and worshipped in three different buildings. And we've changed. We were a fairly white-bread congregation in 1993, but now we look a

lot more like the multicultural community around us.

So, while I'm sad to see the man who did so much to change my life retire, I'm really excited to see what the future holds. Whether it's an express trip or a detour, I'm planning to enjoy the ride.

Blessings,

Summer reading that matters

By Louise Ghobrial

I am very blessed to look after our church library. Its collection of books and other resources has been chosen with care and has been looked after with love and dedication for more than 15 years. Today, I would like to share with you some of my favourite titles, all recent additions to our collection. I hope to inspire you to visit your church library for some great summer reading.

From the children's library:

As Good as Anybody by Richard Michelson is a book that tells the story of two men, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and of their remarkable friendship. It vividly describes how their personal experiences of discrimination led them to fight against injustice and spread the message of love and equality for all. Every time I read it I am reminded of one of my favourite **Bible verses: "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) These two men accomplished just that, and inspired countless others to follow in their path.**

Seven Lonely Places - Seven Warm Places by April Bolton is an unusual, gentle and clever book that teaches children about sins and virtues. These can be difficult to explain, especially to little ones. Children will relate, however, to feelings of loneliness that sin brings about, as in, "**Greed takes you where it's always empty, no matter how much you stuff in, and you say 'I must have all and everything and nothing is enough and no one can have anything but me,' and feelings of warmth such as, 'Justice divides your peanut butter sandwich into a zillion parts for the children who don't have any lunch. Justice is the place where you see everyone must have what they need.'**" Isn't this great? I shared this wonderfully illustrated book with some of our Sunday School children and they liked it, too.

From the adult library:

Something the Lord Made is a movie that tells the true story of the friendship and fruitful partnership between Dr. Alfred Blalock (Alan Rickman), a renowned Johns Hopkins cardiologist, and his lab technician, Vivien Thomas (Mos Def), a young African-American without a college degree. Thomas is a gifted mechanic and tool-

maker with blessed hands created for delicate surgery. Together they took on the challenge of blue babies and invented bypass surgery to correct this fatal condition, thus saving thousands of young, precious lives. Set in the 1930s and 40s, this film dramatizes their endeavour and highlights the racial segregation in place at that time. It is a thoroughly engaging movie.

Bessie: The Life of Elizabeth Roberts Lutley by Trinity's very own **Beth Leach**. In this book, **Beth Leach** wrote the life story of her grandmother, Bessie Roberts, who was a missionary with her husband in China. Together, they raised a family and served God teaching, ministering and evangelizing, filled with faith and love for others. Their devotion to the spiritual welfare of others and the great sorrows they suffered are matched by their **unwavering faith in the word of God. It's an amazing** story, full of adventure. I loved looking at the pictures and reading about the details of their lives in China. Thank you, Beth, for sharing your family story with us!

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger is by far the best novel I have read in a long time. Set in the American Midwest in the early 1960s, this book explores faith and the intricacies of family love and human bonds. It is full of humour and is superbly written in rich, evocative prose filled with biblical allegory.

Your generosity to Trinity's general fund allows us to purchase new resources for the library that we hope will bring our members closer to God. Thank you for your support.

Have a blessed summer,
Louise Ghobrial



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