

Trinity Barrie

Dear Friends:

The season of Lent, which begins on February 25th (Ash Wednesday), is designed for two purposes. The first of these purposes is to prepare us for our celebration of Holy Week & Easter. The death and resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of our faith. Jesus is at the centre of history; our calendar is dated B.C. and A.D. pivoting around his life and resurrection. Each year we re-live these events not as a history lesson but so that the forgiveness, healing, freedom, and new life that we have in Jesus can percolate more deeply into our souls.

The second purpose of Lent is to challenge us to spiritual growth. Has our walk with the Lord grown in the past year? or in the past decade? Some of us remember Lent as a time to "give up" something. There is value in this especially if there is a habit or attitude from which we would like to be free. However, this year I would challenge you to "add" something to your daily schedule in Lent.

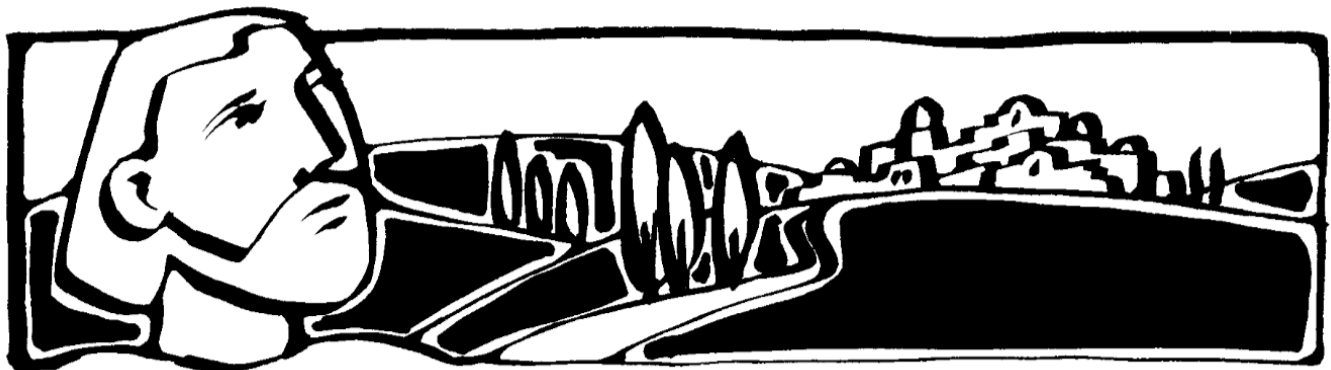
The recent "Reveal" survey indicated that only about 22% of us have a daily practice of Bible reading and prayer. I would like to challenge you to "add" this into your daily schedule. We will provide daily readings in "Happenings" and on our web site that tie in with our Sunday sermons through Lent. However, it may work better for you to log onto the Scripture Union web site or to one of the Bible web sites and have a daily email sent to your computer or your Blackberry. Whatever method works best for you, try to have 10 minutes of quiet to be able to read a short Bible passage, to reflect on its meaning and to have a short prayer. This would be an excellent start. You will find that this gives you focus,

LEADERSHIP FOR 2009

At Vestry we expressed our appreciation to those who had served so well these past few years. Our Leadership Team was installed on Sunday February 8th.

Our churchwardens and Management Board for 2009 are:

- People's Warden - Sue Lyon
- Rector's Warden - Walter Marshall
- Deputy Warden - Kathy Proctor
- Deputy Warden - Beth Conway
- Communications - Grace Jones
- Fellowship - Marg Kenny
- Finance - Gary Lyon
- Outreach - Kemi Ogunmefun
- Property - Paul Thompson
- Worship - Bob Garrett & Deb Marshall
- Membership Resources -
- Christian Education -



clarity and encouragement. Who couldn't use a little of that in these challenging times.

During Lent our Sunday sermons will be focused on "The Day Before Jesus Died". We will look at the key events on the Thursday that Jesus was arrested.

On Fridays during Lent our noon hour series will focus on the "Women of the Bible". We have a wonderful list of speakers. The service & address will be at 12:00 noon on Fridays and the lunch will be at 12:30 pm. This is a neat one hour package of worship and lunch! Our special thanks to Monica Cox and her team who will be serving the lunch.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 25th). There will be children's program led by the Anglican Churches of Barrie at St. George's Allendale. It will run from 8:30 am. to 12:00 noon

FAMILY MINISTRIES INITIATIVE

As a result of the ongoing Vision Consultations we now have a very creative "Family Ministries Team" under the leadership of Earl Paquette, Joan Hill and Andrew Haughton. They want to see our work with families and children strengthened. Our objective is to be more effective in passing on the faith from one generation to the next. There will be two initiatives this spring:

** FAMILY NIGHT AT TRINITY: On Friday April 3rd at 6:30 pm we will have our first "Family Night" for parents and children at Trinity in the auditorium. Mark this date on your calendar. More details will be forthcoming in the next month. It will be an intergenerational evening of fun, food, and teaching.

** FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES: for all youngsters between the ages of 6 and 10 years. We will give instruction regarding the Communion service. Some youngsters are already receiving Communion but have not received any instruction. Other youngsters will use this as preparation for their First Communion. It is our intention to present all the youngsters who complete the classes to the Bishop on Trinity Sunday (June 7th). The classes will be on three Saturdays (April 25th, May 9th, May 23rd) from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Speak to Susan Snelling for more information. Watch Happenings for registration info or call the church office.

concluding with a hot dog lunch. Please register your children through our church office. Worship at Trinity on Ash Wednesday will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 pm. To aid in your spiritual growth I would encourage you to fast that day in a way that is appropriate to your health. Fasting is a biblical discipline that is being reclaimed. Watch "Happenings" for more guidelines on fasting. It will be a day of special significance if on Ash Wednesday we all fast during the day and then join together for Communion that evening.

May the Lord do a deep work in your soul during this Lenten season.

Blessings,

-- Canon Brian McVitty



ASH WEDNESDAY -- Feb. 25th

Worship at Trinity at 10:30 a.m and 7:00 pm

Children's Program at St. George's Allendale from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

WOMAN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 6th at 2:00 pm at Trinity

EVENSONG AND HAM DINNER

Sunday March 15th

The Choir will be presenting sung Evensong with Anthems, followed by a Ham Dinner.

“REVEAL” SURVEY RESULTS

Last spring about 96 members of Trinity went on-line and completed the “Reveal” survey. The “Reveal” survey attempts to measure the spiritual health and vitality of a congregation. We rated ourselves very highly on the “emotional support” provided by our church and for the sense of “belonging” that we feel. However, it was a surprise to us that in some of the basic beliefs of the faith and in our practice of the faith we are weaker than we had expected. The following is a short summary of the charts we showed in church. More information is contained in the Vestry Report.

BASIC BELIEFS: I “very strongly agree” with the following beliefs:

Trinity	51%
Salvation by Grace	41%
Authority of the Bible	24%
Personal God	48%
Identity in Christ	26%
Church	24%
Humanity	67%
Compassion	22%
Eternity	20%
Stewardship	31%

OUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICES:

Bible Study (daily)	22%
Bible reflection (daily)	18%
Prayer (daily)	42%
Solitude	43%
Tithing (10% or more)	15%
Serving the Needy	40%
Evangelism (conversations)	21%
Evangelism (invitations)	5%
Meet with Spiritual friends	40%
Meet with Spiritual mentor	24%

MARRIAGE SEMINAR -- Sat. Feb. 28th
“Seeing Your Marriage Thru the Eyes of God”

Join Canon Brian & Diane for a one day “Focus on the Family” marriage seminar on Sat. Feb. 28th. It will be a live satellite broadcast across North America featuring: BETH MOORE, DEL TACKET, DR. GARY SMALLEY and others. This is a unique opportunity to invest in the most important relationship in your life! Emmanuel Church on Essa Road south will be the host site in Barrie. Cost is \$69 per couple. Single registration is available. Register on line at www.focusonmarriage.com Video previews are also available at the same web site. This will be a wonderful and inspiring day.

RENEWAL SERVICE --
Saturday March 7th at 7pm

We will be hosting a “Renewal Service” for the Diocese on Saturday March 7th at 7:00 pm. This will be an evening of praise music and healing prayer. Our CWT Band will be leading the music. Our guest preacher will be Pastor Zak Gariba. Zak is known to many of us through his work at the Healing Rooms on Dunlop Street in Barrie. More recently Zak and his wife Karen-Marie have planted a new church in Orillia called Jubilee Christian Fellowship. Zak was born in Nigeria and came to faith as a young man. He has gifts in prophecy and healing prayer.

Women of the Bible

Fridays in Lent at 12:00 noon

(Worship & Address at 12:00 noon. Lunch at 12:30 pm)

Women of the Bible come from all walks of life. They are warriors, judges, prophets, Queens, mothers and sisters. They are models of faith for us in our day. They show sacrifice, courage, patience, and forbearance. We will be inspired by their prayers, their songs, their prophecies and their lives.

Join us this year on Fridays in Lent at noon as we celebrate WOMEN OF THE BIBLE.

❖ February 27th **ESTHER**
Canon Brian McVitty Trinity Church, Barrie.

❖ March 6th **ANNA**
Rev. Marilyn Gratz Inniswood Baptist Church.

❖ March 13th **MIRIAM**
Rev. Elizabeth Morley St. Margaret's Church.

❖ March 20th **RUTH**
Rev. Joanne Bennett St. Paul's Church, Innisfil.

❖ March 27th **MARY MAGDALENE**
Rev. Kathleen Greidanus Parish of Ivy & Utopia.

❖ April 3rd **THE WOMAN OF REV. 12:1-6**
Rev. Andrew Sandilands Trinity Church, Barrie

GOALS FOR 2009

On the two Sundays prior to Vestry, Canon Brian reviewed with the congregation some of the the results of the REVEAL survey as well as the latest initiatives of our VISION Committee. It is amazing how the results from both of these dovetail so well together. The refinement of our VISION has been the result of ongoing consultations with the congregation while the REVEAL survey gives us a statistical measurement of our spiritual vitality. (see the Vestry Report for more of the detailed information)

As a result of the VISION consultations and the REVEAL statistics we have established four key areas of focus for 2009. They are:

❖ **Bible Reading & Prayer** (personal and daily).

At the present time about 22% of us have a daily routine of Bible reading & Prayer. This is the single best personal catalyst for spiritual growth. This year we will both encourage and equip our congregation to build daily devotions into their lives.

❖ **Home Groups** (Bible learning & deepening friendships).

While this is already a strength for our congregation we would like to see a higher level of participation. If the strength of our basic Christian beliefs is weak or fuzzy, Home Groups are the best forum for deepening our knowledge of the Bible. In the spring we will undertake teaching in Christian doctrine. One member has suggested that the Prayer Book Catechism (page 544) and the Articles of Religion (page 698) are a very good place to begin.

❖ **Family Ministries** (children & youth).

Continue working with parents and youngsters to strengthen our ministry with children and youth.

❖ **Worship** (impactful for newcomers).

Continue to assess how "impactful" our Sunday worship is for newcomers and non-believers who are exploring the faith.