



# TSP TIMES

## EASTER EDITION

March 14, 2012

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts  
427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1X7  
T: 416-922-8435 | F: 416-922-8587 | E: tsp@trinitystpauls.ca

### Ministers' Lenten Message

by Vicki Obedkoff and Hans van Nie



Our Lenten journey began on Ash Wednesday Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. In one event that evening, TSP member Armine Yalnizyan, senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, was guest speaker at an Economic Inequality public forum held at Eastminster United Church. Some TSP folk attended and heard Armine ground her speech within the Lenten call to right relationship. She noted that all of the faiths have rituals to mark the turning away from oppressive, unjust behaviours towards right relationship. Of course, turning towards economic equality is a key biblical theme as well.

Armine publicly brought her faith to bear on her work and our collective work towards a more equitable society. Her presentation was meaningfully, liturgically grounded and an inspiration for us all to be involved in public witness.

One of our guiding TSP principles is the integration of worship and work; that "worship and work might be one." So, for example, we make a point of holding a substantial time for announcements within the body of our worship thereby lifting up the life and work of our congregation in the light of the kingdom values we share. We bring our work to prayer, and in fact, our work is a form of prayer and our acting upon God's word as we understand it. Our AGM was another example of "worship and work" being integrated. The flow of our AGM held its own liturgical integrity as we moved:

- from a thoughtful, albeit abbreviated formal worship...
- into a reading of documents...
- to a wonderful waffle lunch prepared by the Youth on Bloor...
- along with all the community-building that happened at table...
- to engagement with the present state
- and future direction of our congregation.

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Lots of energy and good work is moving in the TSP community; key meetings are coming in April and May to discern the will of the congregation around options for moving forward into a sustainable, thriving future in our building.

Wednesday night Lenten sessions offer a special opportunity of deepening the Lenten journey. Our focus this year is on "Transforming Oppression," both inner and outer. We began by experiencing the "Celtic Wheel of Being" facilitated by peacemaking trainer and Lee McKenna. Our next session, "Writing out our internal dialogues" with David Craig, helped us examine the conflicting internal voices that often fill our minds and souls. We encourage you to attend the other sessions as you are able and to know that you will be nourished.

We travel the Lenten journey with you, as your ministers, and wait upon the Spirit to guide us in the steps that lead to vibrant, compassionate, justice-seeking community life and public witness.

Blessings and Strength, Vicki and Hans



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

### Sunday Apr 1, 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Communion  
including The Requiem, op. 9,  
by Maurice Duruflé

### Thursday, April 5 - 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday liturgy in the  
Chapel – joint service with  
Bathurst UC & Bloor St. UC

### Good Friday, April 6- 10:30 am

Joint Service @ Bloor St. UC

### Good Friday Social Justice Walk

April 6, 2:00 pm @ Trinity  
Square by the Eaton Centre

### Easter Sunday April 8, 10:30 a.m.

## Events during Lent 2012

The Nurturing Community & Discipleship Circle is hosting a series of evenings designed to support you on your Lenten journey. This year's theme is "Transforming Oppression", both inner and outer. Our theme is rooted in the scriptures of Luke: 16-18. Spiritual practices from Christian traditions and applied Buddhism will be brought to transforming oppression. All sessions will take place in the TSP Chapel - Wednesday evenings 7 - 8:45 p.m.

**A Living with Grief Support Group:** The grief journey is not about forgetting and assigning it to the past. Rather it is about remembering, honouring and hopefully integrating the richness of the relationship without denying the pain of the loss.

**When:** 7 - 9 pm on March 28 & April 4.

**Place:** Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, Memorial Room.

This group is open to all and is intended to offer a confidential and safe space to share with peers the uniqueness and the commonality of one's grief. If you are considering attending, please contact either of the co-leaders:

Mary Simpson at [b\\_msimpson@sympatico.ca](mailto:b_msimpson@sympatico.ca) - Tel: 416-203-0398

Elaine Gort at [elaine.gort@sympatico.ca](mailto:elaine.gort@sympatico.ca) Tel: 416-463-7547.

**Youth on Bloor Storytelling:**

**When:** Throughout March, April, and May

*Youth on Bloor* will be hearing and re-telling stories from the community. The youth will interview folks from the three congregations, inviting them to tell their stories - either personal stories, stories about the congregation, or stories about a broader context. They will then dramatize the story through a variety of media and may even make a DVD that would be available for sale. We are looking for artistic and technical support and stories to tell. Contact Greg at [greg.a.powell@gmail.com](mailto:greg.a.powell@gmail.com) to get involved in any capacity."

**Wednesday, March 14th 7:00 - 8:45 p.m. - Strengthening our Spirits through Art with Natalie Griller.** Through sight, hearing and touch, we connect with the beauty and wonder of the world. We will explore aspects of our visual world to find those that are personally meaningful and use these aspects to create art to nourish our spirits. RSVP: [ngriller@hotmail.com](mailto:ngriller@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 - 8:45 p.m. Theatre of the Oppressed with Rusa Jeremic.** Have fun and explore Empire (systems of oppression at work in our world today) through this hands-on, participatory, theatre-based workshop! Oscar-worthy performances welcome! Rusa is Education for Justice Animator for the United Church of Canada. She also teaches in the Community Worker program at George Brown. In her spare time, she dabbles in the comedic arts. RSVP: [rusajeremic@hotmail.com](mailto:rusajeremic@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Lois Kunkel will lead a Circle process asking the questions: "When am I oppressed, and "When am I the oppressor"?** These questions connect us to the theme of this series and place us inside this theme. Natasha McLennan Tajiri will lead Centering prayer. RSVP: [loiskunkel@rogers.com](mailto:loiskunkel@rogers.com)

## Events during Lent 2012

**Wednesday, April 4th 7:00 - 8:45 p.m. Finding Freedom in Every Moment** with Cindy Carroll, facilitator of True Peace Sangha, a community that practices mindfulness meditation in the Vietnamese Zen tradition of spiritual teacher and activist Thich Nhat Hanh.

Mindfulness meditation is the training of becoming fully aware and alive in the present moment. Returning to the moment, we give ourselves the opportunity to pause from our habitual conditioned responses, to calm ourselves and clarify our thinking which in turn nourishes us in stillness and peace. Practiced over time, mindfulness can help us develop the insight and inner freedom to respond skillfully (on both the inside and on the outside) to whatever is arising in the moment. Please join us for an experiential evening of meditation, dharma reading and community sharing. RSVP: [stonecycles@rogers.com](mailto:stonecycles@rogers.com)

### REGISTRATION for series:

*Space is limited for these sessions, so we ask you to RSVP to the leader for the night(s) in question via the emails listed above.* For questions about the series in general please contact Vicki at [vobedkoff@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:vobedkoff@trinitystpauls.ca)



**Doors Open Toronto 2012:** As part of TSP's 125th anniversary celebrations, our building will be featured in *Doors Open Toronto 2012*. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our building, programs and congregation to the community. With the theme of "**200 years of Building the Urban City**," we have been asked to focus on city builders - the people and personalities that are associated with our city's history. Who would you like to feature as a city builder from our congregation? It could be current or historical, faith related to faith, or justice, or the arts. If you have ideas for nominations or other ideas, skills, talents or expertise to contribute to this event, please contact:

Mary Reeve at [mary.reeve@sympatico.ca](mailto:mary.reeve@sympatico.ca) or Gail Allan [gail.allan@utoronto.ca](mailto:gail.allan@utoronto.ca).

*Doors Open Toronto* will take place May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

# PEACEMAKING CIRCLES

## FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

offered at

## TRINTIY-ST. PAUL'S

You are invited to join in a dynamic day-long training in conflict resolution. Using role-play and other experiential learning modalities, we will seek to resolve a "conflict" of the group's design. You can expect to learn the elements of Peacemaking Circles, including:

- Use of the talking piece
- Circle values and principles, as expressed across cultures
  - The use of "rounds" as they apply to a conflict
  - Listening and speaking in environments of tension

The day will be facilitated by Lois Kunkel and Pat Archer.

When: Saturday April 21, 2012

Hours: 9:30 (sharp) - 5:00

Where: TSP, The Memorial Room

Fee: \$75 (plus HST = \$84.75)

If you wish to participate and finances are a consideration, please speak to Lois or Pat.

Lunch: Plan to bring your own and eat in. Snacks, tea and other beverages will be provided for breaks.

Registration is limited to 12 so please sign up early, accompanied by your registration fee made out to: Pat Archer, 316 Kennedy Ave., Toronto M6P 3C3. (Queries to [pat@patarchercoaching.com](mailto:pat@patarchercoaching.com))

Contact: Lois Kunkel at 416-462-9554 or [loiskunkel@rogers.com](mailto:loiskunkel@rogers.com)

## Renewing Spirit 125

By Paul Bagnell and Barbara Lloyd

A major capital fundraising campaign was launched on February 26<sup>th</sup> at Trinity-St. Paul's; it's called *Renewing Spirit 125*, and its' goal is to strengthen TSP's financial footing in the years ahead as we carry out our mission. It is an opportunity to contribute to a common legacy for the future ministry of faith, justice and the arts in this city and the world. Our last capital campaign took place twenty years ago. We are now in a different time with new hopes and expectations.

There will be three distinct phases to *Renewing Spirit 125*, each with a unique focus.

**The first** is a Planned Giving Phase: Several informal gatherings will be held and a professional fundraiser from The United Church of Canada's national office will show us how we can use tools like Wills, insurance policies and annuities to leave lasting gifts to TSP. This phase will be launched with the worship service and following event on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and is expected to conclude by the end of May.

**The second** is the Operating Budget Phase as part of the Season of Commitment which is expected to run from July to December 2012. The focus here will be identifying gifts to congregational operations and to the United Church's Mission and Service Fund work.

**And the final phase** of *Renewing Spirit 125* will be the Special Gifts Phase; we'll raise funds for enhancements to the sanctuary - and in particular, the chancel platform and organ - during this phase, expected to run from January to June 2013.

Co-Chairs Betsy Anderson and Barbara Lloyd will be working with Honorary Chairs, Kay Fallis and Walter Pitman as well as Paul Bagnell, Donald Chong, Lynne Brennan, Jane Cooper and Hans van Nie to organize and implement this campaign.

If you have questions about *Renewing Spirit 125*, please speak to any of us or email us at [renewingspirit125@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:renewingspirit125@trinitystpauls.ca)

Stay tuned! You'll be hearing lots more about *Renewing Spirit 125*.

## What's Happening at TSP

### Burmese/Myanmar "Awareness Raiser" at TSP Centre for Faith, Justice & the Arts

TSP Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts - a great space for all kinds of events from small family parties to large cultural events!

Please refer people to the website ([www.trinitystpauls.ca](http://www.trinitystpauls.ca)) and office (416 922 8435) for information on available rooms and prices. Don't forget that TSP also has both small and large kitchens and a lovely garden. You can support both TSP and the groups who rent our space by coming out for things such as Hands across the Border.

On April 21st a very special event, **Hands across the Border** will take place at the TSP Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts. Proceeds will assist the Kachin People on the run from the Burmese army. Tens of thousands of Kachin have already been displaced by the civil war in Myanmar/Burma, and forced to abandon their villages, livestock and crops. They experience the cold along with hunger and illness in the chaotic, overcrowded camps along Myanmar's northern border with China. Two informative websites about the socio-political context are: <http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/library/reports/under-siege-in-kachin-state-burma.html> and <http://www.cfob.org/mining.html>.

The first part of the evening will be all Burmese from language to entertainment. Jimmy Jack, a legendary Burmese/Myanmar singer will kick off the night from 6:30-7:30.

At 8 p.m. Canadian friends Eve Goldberg ([www.evegoldberg.com](http://www.evegoldberg.com)), and the Common Thread Community Chorus ([www.commonthreadchorus.ca](http://www.commonthreadchorus.ca)) will enliven the hall with a performance and a sing-a-long. There will also be a slide presentation about the Kachin.

This event is a result of a Common Thread choir member's cross-cultural community-building. Nang Pri Khin is one of only 30 Kachin in Toronto, mostly newcomers. Attendance at the Burmese portion of the event will be a rare opportunity for Burmese and non-Burmese people to come together. We can also help the Burmese/Myanmar-Canadian community with our support in raising awareness about the Kachin and with monetary donations. Very little international attention or aid is addressing this situation. Few resources are reaching the people at the moment, so Pri's team is researching the best group through whom to send concert proceeds.

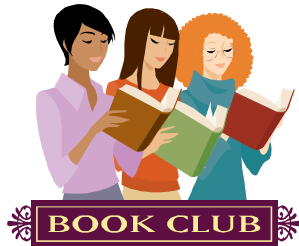
I, for one, am delighted to be able to help with this meaningful event. Please see me about advance ticket sales and if you would like to support Hands across the Border in any other way.

Linda Dawn Pettigrew (TSP member and Common Thread, alto)

P.S. This event is being held at TSP due to the fantastic outreach of the TSP Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts.

## About the TSP Times

The TSP Times is a bi-monthly newsletter for members and friends of Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and CFJA. Submissions from all members of the congregation are welcome. Please send your items to [buyandsellwithsarah@yahoo.com](mailto:buyandsellwithsarah@yahoo.com). The deadline for the next issue is **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**. Sarah Landry - Editor



## Tracking Good Books

*By Kathleen Bailey*

*The Boy in the Dress* by David Walliams is a sensitively written novel about Dennis, who “felt like he was on a rollercoaster.” He didn’t have to be boring Dennis anymore. “I can be whoever I want to be!” he thought.

This story is the tale of a boy, with many gifts, who risks being different made me smile and brought me to the edge of tears for it. Venturing out into his own school, disguised as a French exchange student, Dennis explores what it feels like to be received as a girl. His feelings of success last for a while. But of course, I don’t want to give away the whole plot!

A review of it can be found in the Guardian at the following link:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/nov/15/boy-in-the-dress-david-walliams>

There are 46 copies in the Toronto Public Library system. I did not recognize David Walliams as an author, but my eyes sparkled when I realized that this novel for tweens is one of the rare ones - a novel which is illustrated. In this case, it is illustrated by a famous British illustrator, Quentin Blake. He was appointed Britain’s first Children’s Laureate in 1999. His illustrations are playful, and immensely skilled, with the effortless appearance of doodles.

If you would like to explore more about Quentin Blake and his career, just check out this link:

<http://literature.britishcouncil.org/quentin-blake> . I guarantee that you will be dazzled by Blake’s whimsical illustrations.

If you do not have easy access to a computer, or tablet at home, do come to one of the public libraries in Toronto. Spadina library and Palmerston are two possibilities in the Trinity St. Paul’s neighbourhood. Lillian H Smith Library is larger, and has more computers. It also houses the world renowned Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books. Phone 416-393-7131 for quick information about Toronto Public Library, and for other questions about library resources. You can also nab me at coffee time after church. I am working on a bibliography for Toronto Public Library called Rainbow Families. I shared an early version of it recently on Family Day.

## Are you on the List?

TSP has an on-line **list serve** that sends out information on activities, upcoming events, the weekly announcements, and other items of interest to people at TSP. You can get each email message or a daily digest. It is an easy way to keep track of what is going on. To join the list serve, log into the website. (You will need to register if you haven't already) On the right side of the page, there is a grey box with your name at the top of it. Click on the "My Account / Mailing Lists" link. Scroll down to TSP list on the left and click on the button for emails. Then you too can be up-to-date!

Alternatively, you can go to: <http://lists.trinitystpauls.ca/listinfo.cgi/tsplist-trinitystpauls.ca> and provide your name and e-mail.

### Trinity St. Paul's United Church and Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts

427 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1X7

Telephone: 416-922-8435  
Facsimile: 416-922-8587  
E-mail: [tsp@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:tsp@trinitystpauls.ca)

#### Pastoral Staff

Vicki Obedkoff (x24)  
[vobedkoff@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:vobedkoff@trinitystpauls.ca)  
Hans van Nie (x23)  
[hvannie@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:hvannie@trinitystpauls.ca)

#### Music Director

Brad Ratzlaff (x26)  
[bratzlaff@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:bratzlaff@trinitystpauls.ca)

#### Office Coordinator

John Bell (x21)  
[tsp@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:tsp@trinitystpauls.ca)

#### Building Coordinator

Jackie van't Voort (x25)  
[jvanvoort@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:jvanvoort@trinitystpauls.ca)

#### Maintenance

David Macmillan (x22)

#### Building Attendants (x21)

Tim Addis | Ron Blake | Linda Browne | Jim Burgess | Lynn Jondreville | Martin Louis Marc Young



### Church Board

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Worship and Faith Formation	Marilyn Whiteley

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#### Children's Church

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Teacher, Ages 7-11 Program	Christy Bray
Teacher, Ages 12+ (YouthonBloor)	Greg Powell