

# TRINITY CONNECTED



## Harrowsmith-Verona Pastoral Charge

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## *In Memoriam*

Daughter, sister, beloved wife, momma, nanna, teacher, faith leader, friend to many and an inspiration to all. We all have many roles to play, many hats to wear and in this Sheila was not unique. What made our Sheila unique was that she took each role played and each hat willingly and loved each one of them.

Sheila loved teaching. Her favourite class was the basic level math class. Each student in that class had difficulties in one way or another. It was during that class when one student claimed that they could not solve a particular problem because of their difficulty. Each student then claimed the same thing. Sheila had an epiphany... we are all different but together we can solve whatever problem that lies ahead. Sheila took her love of teaching to the next level... from standing in front of a classroom to standing in front of congregations. She worked incredibly hard to become a Registered Licensed Lay Leader. We were so proud of her for pursuing that path.

Sheila touched each of us and we are left with memories that make us smile and stories that we can share. A touch on the shoulder during the singing of the benediction, dressing up as Mrs. Claus for the children's Christmas party at St. Paul's due to Santa having a cold, sharing pictures and stories of our families, especially

of our grandchildren, singing, and crying while singing! **Here I am Lord, if you need me**



*I thought of what words Sheila would want to be remembered by ...*  
**I Cared.**

*Sheila cared and worried about her congregations and the members of her community of Verona. The Christmas Hampers, the Christmas in June Hampers and then the Food Cupboard was inspired by and organized by her. It was an organizational feat. Many families have been looked after. I believe that she took this personally. She needed to know that all who needed to be fed were fed and worried constantly that someone was missed.*

## **Welcome, Welcome Home**

Sheila shed tears of joy and sorrow, and we wept with her. She laughed and we laughed with her. She sang and we sang louder. She said "I have an idea, and we followed. She spoke and we listened. She said listen and we believed.

*Written by close friend, Gayle Robertson*

# Trinity in the News

Allow me to introduce myself: I am the Trinity United Church, nestled in the heart of Verona, Ontario. My walls have stood tall and proud for many years, witnessing the ebb and flow of time and the lives of those who have passed through my doors.

I was born out of the dreams and aspirations of a small but dedicated assembly. In 1901, a group of faithful souls came together, driven by a shared vision of creating a place of worship and community. I was tragically destroyed by a fire in 1940, marking a significant turning point in my history and leading to my reconstruction. They laid my foundation brick by brick with their hands and hearts, and I was officially reopened in 1941 to the world.

Over the decades, I have seen countless weddings, baptisms, and funerals. I have been a sanctuary for those seeking solace, a beacon of hope in times of despair, and a place of celebration during moments of joy. My pews have held generations of families, each leaving their mark on my history.

In recent years, I have embraced change while

honouring my past. My assembly has grown and evolved, with the addition of the members from

St. Paul's in Harrowsmith, welcoming new faces and new traditions. I, along with other local venues, have become a hub for community events, a discreet sharing cupboard (food), and a place where people come together to support one another and celebrate life's milestones.



So, dear visitor, as you walk through my doors, know that you are stepping into a place rich with history and affection. I am the Trinity United Church, and my story is far from over.

*Written by [Kelli McRobert](#) Jan 16, 2025 for the Frontenac News (Please note the original news article has been edited and condensed for space)*

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## What's Happening!

## Looking Ahead

<b>Music Sunday with Christopher Hall</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday April 27</b>
<b>Trinity Quilt Show</b>	<b>10:00 am to 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Saturday May 3</b>
<b>Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday May 25</b>
<b>Trinity Anniversary with Guest Speaker</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday June 8</b>
<b>100th Anniversary Service in Ottawa</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday June 15</b>
<b>National Indigenous Service</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday June 22</b>

# Trinity with Christopher Hall Music Sunday

April 27 10:00 am



Wishing everyone who celebrates a birthday in  
January, February, March, April and May  
a very happy birthday!

Muriel York	January 8	Ann McDougall	February 6
Jean Pritchard	January 9	Vera Brown	April 4
Kathleen Goodfellow	January 13	Wanda Asselstine	April 29
Jane Adamson	January 14	Ian Mackay	May 1
John McDougall	January 17	Joan Steel	May 13
Andy Adamson	January 20	Clara Clow	May 17

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you.  
May God's richest blessings fall upon you!

## **United Churches in Celebration**

Our Trinity Service on the morning of Sunday June 15 will be a special United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary celebration, held in Ottawa at 11:00 am at the EY Centre near the Ottawa airport. This is a fully accessible facility on the outskirts of Ottawa, with ample parking. Lunch will be included.

We will be car pooling that morning for this once in a generation event. A live stream of the service will be available for those who are not able to join in person.



## ***Sharing a Full-Time Minister***

Our church has been approached by Perth Road United Church to consider sharing a full-time minister. We are planning a Congregational Meeting following the church service on Sunday May 25 to discuss this option and make a collective decision.

Shared ministry is described as follows in a letter from our Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Sharon MacDonald:

- Each church remains their own entity
- Each church hires a minister on a half time basis
- It is suggested that rather than a call from each church, the minister would be appointed for one year which gives the churches a chance to review the arrangement and decide to continue as an appointment for up to 2 years or opt out
- Each church has to advertise a half time position on the Church Hub with a note that it

will be a shared ministry with the other church

- There would be a joint Search/Interview committee with members from both churches
- When the minister is hired, there would be a joint M & P committee with members from both churches
- Each church can choose to pay the Minister's salary and their share of the expenses on their own or one church can pay the other church their half and the second church pays the Minister through ADP
- Ministers expenses are shared 50/50 by each church.
- It must be determined where the church office would be and then mileage to meetings etc would be paid from that point.



*Submitted by Session*

# TRINITY QUILT SHOW & LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD  
10AM - 2PM

VIEW BEAUTIFUL QUILTS IN HISTORIC  
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, VERONA  
6689 ROAD 38  
613-374-2777

SHOW & LUNCHEON - \$10  
SHOW ONLY - BY DONATION

## Welcome Easter Morning

Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane was born in Scotland in 1830 and died in 1869. The daughter of a county sheriff, she lived most of her brief life near Edinburgh.

Though in frail health most of her life, Elizabeth found the strength to help the poor and sick in her town. She and her sister gave all that they could spare to charity including, it is said, selling their horse and carriage for the benefit of the needy. The townspeople of Melrose referred to Elizabeth as “the Sunbeam.”

The tune’s universal pairing is with ST. CHRISTOPHER, composed by Bristol, England, musician, Frederick C. Maker (1844-1927).

The hymn is full of comforting, and perhaps paradoxical language, about the cross, after all, an instrument of the cruellest torture. These include in stanza two “the shadow of a mighty rock,” “a home within the wilderness,” “a rest upon the way.”

Clephane places her encounter with the sheltering cross as an act of personal solace. She wants to remain spiritually in the shelter of the cross:

Elizabeth Clephane’s reflection assumes a spiritual posture of meditation. Unlike what she states in her final stanza, “Content to let the world go by. . . .”, this was not her ethical posture as she was not only aware of others’ plight, but also shared all she could spare to meet the needs of the poor and infirmed within the limitations of her frail health and resources.

Imagine standing at the foot of Jesus cross with his mother, Mary Magdalene, the other women and the apostle John. Beneath the Cross of Jesus gives us insight to this time and place.

The song was written by Elizabeth Clephane, who also wrote *The Ninety and Nine*.

Elizabeth Clephane lost her parents at a young age and struggled with her own health issues for the majority of her life.

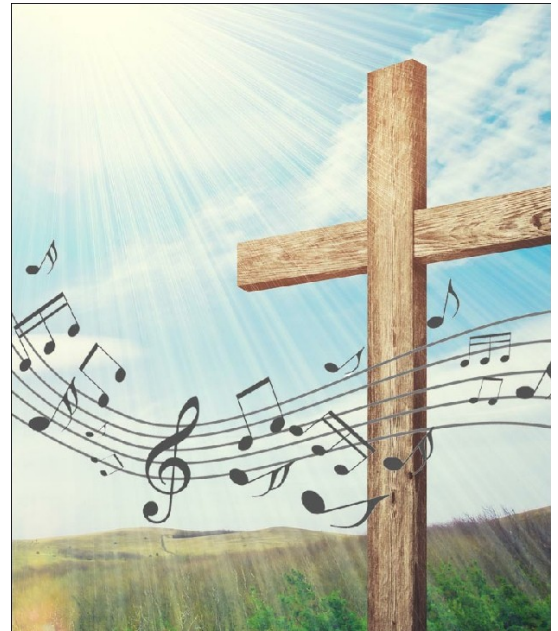
However she is described as “one of those cheerful people who brighten every corner”. Her friends called her “Sunbeam”.

The passage “The shadow of a mighty rock, Within a weary land, A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way, From the burning of the noontide heat And the burden of the day.” {Isaiah 32:1-2} is said to be the inspiration for her poem Beneath the Cross of Jesus.

Elizabeth Clephane is said to say she found her resting place in the cross of Jesus, which was her home within the wilderness.

We are unsure of exactly when Elizabeth wrote the hymn, but one source believes it may have been shortly before her death.

The hymn was first published in 1872, three years after the authors death. The poem was submitted by an anonymous source, probably a friend or family member and published in the Scottish Presbyterian magazine *The Family Treasury*.



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## **Welcome Easter Morning (Continued)**

*(Continued from page 5)*

### **Background of Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, a devout Scottish Presbyterian, is the author of "Beneath the Cross of Jesus." Born in Edinburgh in 1830, she was the youngest of three daughters of Andrew Clephane, sheriff of Fife and Kinross. Her mother was a member of the prominent Douglas family. Elizabeth lived most of her life in nearby Melrose in the Abbotsford area. Sir Walter Scott, also a resident, has beautifully described this place.

### **"Sunbeam" of Melrose**

Elizabeth Clephane's father died while she was very young. Though of fragile health, herself, she took a particular interest in the poor and downtrodden. Accordingly, she and her sisters gave much of their family wealth to alleviate their suffering. Thus, she became known as the "sunbeam" of Melrose for her philanthropic devotion.

### **Two Hymns**

Elizabeth Clephane wrote poetry and several hymns, which were published in newspapers

and in religious publications. Of her hymns, only two are well-known today — "The Ninety and Nine" and "Beneath the Cross of Jesus." She wrote the latter hymn while a bed-ridden invalid, shortly before her death in 1869, at age 38. Both of these hymns were published in 1872, in the Scottish Presbyterian periodical, "The Family Treasury." Ira Sankey encountered them while serving as evangelist Dwight L. Moody's music associate in Scotland. Later, he popularized these hymns in the United States.

### **Rich in Metaphor and Scriptural Allusions**

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" is rich in metaphor and many scriptural allusions. William Arnot, editor of "The family Treasury," described this hymn as follows. "These lines express the experiences, hopes and the longings of a young Christian lately released. Written on the very edge of life, with the better land fully in view of faith, they seem to us footsteps printed on the sands of time, where these sands touch the ocean of eternity. These footprints of one whom the Good Shepherd led through the wilderness into rest, may, with God's blessing, contribute to comfort and direct succeeding pilgrims."

*Submitted by Ian Mackay*

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## **Then and Now - Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>**

We all want to express our deepest appreciation to Carleton Brown for his reflections on growing up as a minority in Ontario. It was a very personal and meaningful talk that left us deeply moved and self reflective.

Thanks also to Linda Brown, Carleton's wonderfully supportive wife; Jean Clair for the quilt that sparked the focus for the service;

Rebecca Peters for her creativity; Stan Stinchcombe and the Trinity choir for leading the singing; Nancy Moore Carr and Joe Buckley for their readings and Jane Mackay for her descriptive writing.



*Submitted by John McDougall*