TRINITY-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



September 2025 Newsletter



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A note from Rev. Wanda

Greetings dear siblings in Christ

I know you won't read this for a few days after I'm back, but I'm writing from the weedy, rocky shores of Stony Lake, listening to the call of ducks, geese and osprey reminding me that it's almost fall. I'm offering leadership at an East Central Ontario Regional Council women's retreat the first week of September. This retreat always marks the beginning of... something!

I think we are all affected by the change of seasons. Maybe you feel relief that the intense heat of this past summer is over? Maybe you feel trepidation about the times to come? Maybe you feel hope and trust in what good things Creator has in store for you? I think we could take some lessons from the geese this time of year. This seems to be rehearsal time for the chevron flying days to come. Honking encouragement to the geese around them, their very flight and position in the "V" formation supports those around them while a rotating group of strong leaders points them toward safety and nourishment.

Here in Canada, the ultimate sign of fall (and spring) is that crooked line of noisy creatures above us heading to warmer climates, or sometimes these days, simply feeling restless with the change of temperatures. It's almost a celebration or a rite of passage. I know there must be similar signs across the planet, but here in Canada that is the sign of change. Back to school. Back to predictable days and a rhythm that is both comforting and challenging as we sort out our callings as God's children.

Are you heading back to school this month? You are in my prayers. Teachers, students, graduates, may all you do be in praise and service of Christ.

Are you watching others head to new routines while your life simply carries on? In your home, in your office, in your truck, on the field... wherever you are spending your time, may all you do be in praise and service of Christ.

Your ministry is not just what happens in the church buildings. I'm so grateful for all the ways you have answered God's call in your lives, and may you feel the blessings of service, belonging and purpose as you live into that call.

Beloved Community at TSAUC

Looking ahead to this coming year - wow! You have to come and see. Our building is busier than ever because God's children are responding to nudges and needs, opening our doors to groups for bible study, coffee groups for home-school groups, intergenerational programming around music and games, crafts. So many people learning that God loves them. That this community loves them.

Is God calling you to a ministry of presence? Please reach out!

We have more automatic doors being installed, a congregational meeting planned to

talk about potential improvements to the sanctuary that will make it easier for all of us to climb into the choir and pulpit area.

We have a new communications committee that is keeping track of events and social media posts, posters, public relations...

Is God calling you to a ministry of sharing the good news? Please reach out!

We have music, supper, migrant worker ministries...

We are looking for one or two of you who love worship, who love the way our community cares for each other and for the vulnerable and lonely around us... would you consider sharing leadership of the worship committee?

Is God calling you to a ministry of worship leadership? Please reach out!

And do you know how you will be able to keep track of all this?

We also have a new sign. Maybe you have noticed?

A huge, grateful shout out to David Green and all those who helped make our new electronic sign possible. I know that took hours of discussion, working with municipal regulations, finding vendors, digging, phoning, training... and now we have a way to let everyone know what they need to Come and See at

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church!

I think I also need to thank a few members of our congregation who sat in a visioning exercise with Regional pastoral relations minister Darren Liepold earlier this year, and realized that an electronic sign would help launch the presence of ministry into the daily lives of Brightonians - so they took it upon themselves to fund this project, but are preferring to remain humbly below the radar. No geese-honking-formation announcing their involvement, but they know who they are, and I hope they know how much gratitude there is in this community for their generosity.

Ok that's a lot, and you still need to read the rest of this newsletter! As you read these articles, I pray that your heart will be warmed as you see signs of the Holy Spirit moving among us, regenerating this community, encouraging us to be all that we were placed here to be. I pray that you feel the presence of Christ leading us on a good path that leads to love and hope. And I pray that you know all of this, and all that you are and do are grounded in the powerful presence of our Creator God.

We are not alone, we live in God's world. Thanks be to God!

Reverend Wanda Stride



Awake at Home

by Matt Laney | published on Sep 3, 2025

[Jesus said to them,] "Stay awake! If the house owner knew when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and stood guard. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man comes at an unexpected hour." – Matthew 24:42-44 (adapted)

In Plum Village, the monastery founded by Thich Nhat Hanh, I was taught to wash the dishes or clean the kitchen counter as if caring for a baby.

At first, it felt contrived. Eventually, something shifted. Giving loving attention to a tiny, fragile human can turn most anyone into an awakened being, if only for a moment, which is all we have.

Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite monk, spoke of something similar. "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer. In the noise and clutter of my kitchen...I possess God in tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament." He also said, "Great have abandoned all particular forms of devotion, all prayer techniques. My only prayer practice is attention."

Jesus urged his disciples to remain awake and alert to the arrival of the Holy, because the Eternal is not only present, the Eternal is presence itself. In my experience, the presence of the Eternal becomes available through the practice of loving attention.

If God ever feels out of reach, try going about your day as if carrying a sleeping infant. Few people act heedlessly or recklessly while holding a baby at rest. We naturally move more tranquilly and speak more gently. Our attention becomes more acute; our being is more reverent. In one unexpected moment, holiness arrives.

Stay alert. Love what you do. The Presence is literally at hand.

Prayer

Holy One, today may I strive for attention over perfection.



Season of Creation

Come and see what the fall is bringing to worship at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church! From September 7 to Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12, you will see beautiful new table and pulpit cloths in vibrant fall colours, you will have a chance for a meditative walk in nature before church (Sept 14 and 21 and 28th) and we will share moments of reflection and meditation on how God is revealed to us through the created world and not just human history.

While this is new for us (on September 7, we dedicated the fabric art we commissioned from long-time TSAUC member and quilter, Janet Enns), the Season of Creation has been part the Western

Church for decades. We recognize that God has given us tremendous responsibility in caring for our planet, and we lament that we may not have lived up to God's hopes and dreams. But we also believe in a forgiving and renewing God.

How is Christ calling us today to live with respect in Creation, to live with awareness of the interconnectedness and interdependence we share with the entire world? Here is a bit of background from the United Church of Canada (note that this information was first provided in 2011!)

The Liturgical Colour Orange

Although it feels as if we are introducing a new liturgical colour, we may envision Creation Time and its colour orange not as the next new flavour in public worship, but as an important recapturing of an ancient Christian liturgical way of being that we have lost—and lost at great peril.

History

Orange was:

- the Early Christian colour for confessors, monastics, and matrons
- worn in some Russian churches during summer fasts; in Western rites, some mainline Protestant churches propose orange as a colour for fall
- some Orthodox Churches use scarlet, orange, or rust



As part of the Season of Creation, we are leading silent prayer walks to allow everyone to experience the sacredness around us.



Prayer Walks



September 14, 21, 28, 2025 9:15 am - 10:00am

Meet in front of the Hall at Trinity-St.Andrew's United Church in Brighton at 9:15 am sharp

We will walk over rough ground, so wear good shoes and be mindful of mobility. This is rain or shine, so dress accordingly to make sure you are comfortable.

All ages welcome.

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church
56 Prince Edward St, Brighton, Ontario
613-475-1311
www.trinitystandrews.ca







Bold Discipleship

Submitted by Rev. Jacke Harper

One of the three themes for the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada is BOLD DISCIPLESHIP. When I think about discipleship, I think about what it means for me to name myself as Christian and what does it mean to me to be a follower of Jesus. When I add in the descriptor "bold" it reminds me that my faith, my life is meant to be visible, observable to others. My actions and my words need to show integrity. How does how I live my life speak of my faith, how do my actions help to live into God's realm on earth, today and into tomorrow not just for me but for all God's creation.

So in September I am focusing my faith journey on BOLD DISCIPLESHIP and Pastor Ian in last Sunday's sermon invited us to think about labour and especially about labour that exploits workers and that many of us may inadvertently support. He linked us to a video that told a story of sweatshops and fast fashion. Fast Fashion is as its name depicts is fashion quickly and often cheaply produced in countries other than our own and where children are often the garment workers.

The opposite of Fast Fashion is Slow Fashion. It is fashion created in Canada in sustainable ways. There are a number of companies that sell in Canada. Just type in Slow Fashion in your search engine and you will be linked with Canadian Companies like Kotn and Petagonia and many more. Willow Boutique on Main St. in Brighton is a perfect example. The designers are local and the clothes are manufactured in Toronto. Slow Fashion is also about reusing clothing either by donating it to a second hand store or a vintage store or to the Clothing Depot. The goal is to help someone else enjoy the clothing and keeping it from ending up in a landfill.

So one of my commitments for September as I live more into BOLD DISCIPLESHIP is to go through my closets and give to the Clothing Depot things I no longer need and hope that they will find a new home. I am also making the commitment to not buy any clothes this month, and if and when I do buy something new I will use one of the Canadian Slow Fashion sustainable clothing sites, elbows up, eh!



Caregivers Peer Support Group

I remember when I was working, parenting, and also trying to help my mom live her best life in the apartment she had in our house in Uxbridge. I felt honoured and grateful we could

work together to make sure she lived at home with family in a safe, loving environment. But there were times I felt overwhelmed, a bit frustrated, and honestly, a bit alone. Does this sound familiar? You are NOT alone! There is a group meeting the fourth Wednesday of every month from 3:00-4:00pm in the Quiet Room. There is room for a few more people if you think this time of mutual support and understanding is something that might get you through the day. All we ask is that you commit to being present regularly to support your fellow caregivers, just as you will be able to find the encouragement you need the days you are feeling a little tired. Would you like more information? Please contact Rev Wanda through the office. We plan to open membership to this group again in January, so please come on September 24 at 2:00. We have the kettle on, snacks available, and comfortable couches waiting for you!

Sponsor a Fall Chrysanthemum?

As the days grow cooler and the colours of autumn begin to surround us, we would love to brighten our sanctuary with the rich beauty of fall chrysanthemums. These flowers not only bring warmth and colour to our worship space, but also remind us of God's abundance in this season of thanksgiving.

If you would like to sponsor a chrysanthemum—in memory of someone special, in celebration of a milestone, or simply as a gift to our church family—please speak with Ellen G or Judy M. You are welcome to choose the sponsorship amount that feels right for you. Sponsorships will be acknowledged, and you are invited to take your flower home later in the season to enjoy.

Thank you for considering this simple but meaningful way to share in the life and beauty of our church.

Looking for New Committee Members for Worship,

Membership and Pastoral Care

As autumn surrounds us with colour and change, it's a wonderful time to consider new opportunities for growth and service within our church family. The Worship, Membership, and Pastoral Care Committee is seeking new members to join us in this important part of our church life.

This committee helps guide and support the spiritual life of our congregation—shaping worship services, welcoming new members, and offering care and compassion within our church family.

You don't need special training—just a willingness to share your gifts, ideas, and caring spirit. Serving on this committee is a meaningful way to grow in faith, deepen relationships, and help nurture the heart of our congregation.

If you feel called to join, or if you'd like to learn more about what's involved, please speak with Ellen G or Judy M. We would be delighted to welcome you!



A congregational meeting of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church has been called by Congregational Chair Brian Ostrander for **6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 23rd** (Dessert will be served!). The meeting will be held to address three key items:

the status of the new accessible ramp for the chancel, the organ repairs/maintenance, and visioning for the future of our congregation. This is a timely opportunity to discuss these matters and gain input from our faith community. We hope you will be able to attend.

Please note the date change from previous notices.



TSA refreshed Vision and Mission Statements

Following the congregation's recent efforts to update our vision and mission statements, we are pleased to present this draft for your consideration.

The revised statements have been shaped by three primary themes that emerged during our collaborative sessions and through submitted written feedback.

We are committed to being a welcoming community that provides a safe and supportive environment.

- TSA offers an open space for individuals to explore faith and spirituality at their own pace.
- TSA maintains a strong ministry presence in the community and acknowledges the importance of evolving to meet changing or emerging needs.

MISSION (draft)

Rooted in the transformative love of Christ, Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church is a bold and inclusive community where people are empowered to explore faith, deepen their spiritual lives, find hope and take meaningful action. Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church supports programs that uplift lives, strengthen community bonds, and embody God's love in visible, lasting ways.

VISION (draft)

Trinity-St. Andrew's will be a welcoming spiritual centre for all, known for inclusivity, justice, and adaptability to community needs. Through worship, partnership, and service, TSA strives to share good news and benefit others.

A congregational meeting will be held on Sept 23 to vote on the new statements. Thank you to everyone for your participation and thoughtful input.



Communications

Are you on social media at all these days? Have you driven by our church lately?

You'll have noticed a big difference in the way our church communicates! Not only do we have a giant sign on our front lawn, but our website is getting a makeover, and our posts on facebook and instagram now have a uniform look and predictable frequency. We have a plan!

And that's because we have a vibrant, active (and brand new) communications committee that is dedicated to working with all event and program planners to share the good news about Christ's work at Trinity-St. Andrew's.

They are doing this with a consistent message and look that tells the world we are a caring, beloved community of disciples that wants everyone to "come and see" what we are up to.

Thank you to our new chair, David Richards, and members Christine Culbertson-Boyle, Sandee Candeloro, Lori Cooper, Jeanette Cournoyer, Janet Enns, Jacqueline Ludlow, Brian Ostrander, Stephanie Richards and Veronika Roy, who are working closely with staff and volunteers.

Posters/flyers/social media posts are now created from templates so anything that goes into the community from our church is recognizable as ours. If you are adventurous or just plain comfortable on a computer, the team will show you how to access the templates and give you a style guide. If you are happier when a poster magically appears in your inbox, the committee will create something for you to distribute.

Social media posting is now done by a dedicated person on the communications team. If you wish to post something on the TSAUC facebook or Instagram accounts, please email communications@trinitystandrews.ca so we can make sure our feed doesn't get too cluttered or confusing.

For more information about communications, just reach out! We are always looking for new members, and there are jobs that don't require monthly meetings - just let us know how you want to help or what you want to know.

Youth and Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Our Ventures in Biblical Stories was held at TSAUC from Monday July 7th to Friday July 11th. Children ages 4 to 12 shared in these adventures which ran from 9:30 to noon. We explored the biblical stories through art/crafts, outreach, drumming, centring, music drama, story telling and lots of play. There were 18 children that attended plus 8 youth and young adult helpers and many other volunteers that made it such a success. A special thank you to Jackie who put together the program for us.

Kitchen Creations

This summer we offered a kitchen creation activity for the Holy Wonderers.

Under the leadership of Stephanie children and youth were welcomed in the kitchen during worship where they created many tasty foods to share.

Discussion group

The young adults and youth continued to gather each Sunday informally and plan to resume their discussion group this fall.

Fall programming

We have been planning through the summer for our fall adventures and hope to role out or restart several programs in the coming months. Some examples are an after school homework club, a book exchange, crafts, and music. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the children, youth, and young adults at TSAUC.

Affirm & Equity



United Church of Canada Apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ Communities

"Over the past decade, through prayer, reflection, art, listening, and community building, the church has engaged in <u>intentional listening processes</u> to understand the experiences of 2S and LGBTQIA+people within The United Church of Canada's (quoted from the United Church of Canada's

website)

On August 8, 2025, the United Church of Canada acknowledged and apologized for the many shortcomings and the harm the church has caused to the 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities, and committed to radical love and

affirming people of all identities, strengthening its witness to justice and love in action. The apology was offered in a special worship service held at Knox United Church in Calgary, as part of the 45th General Council.

Tangible commitments, such as revising policies, providing reparative support, and ensuring 2S and LGBTQIA+ voices are centered in decision-making would help dismantle systemic barriers and foster a church culture where equity is actively pursued.

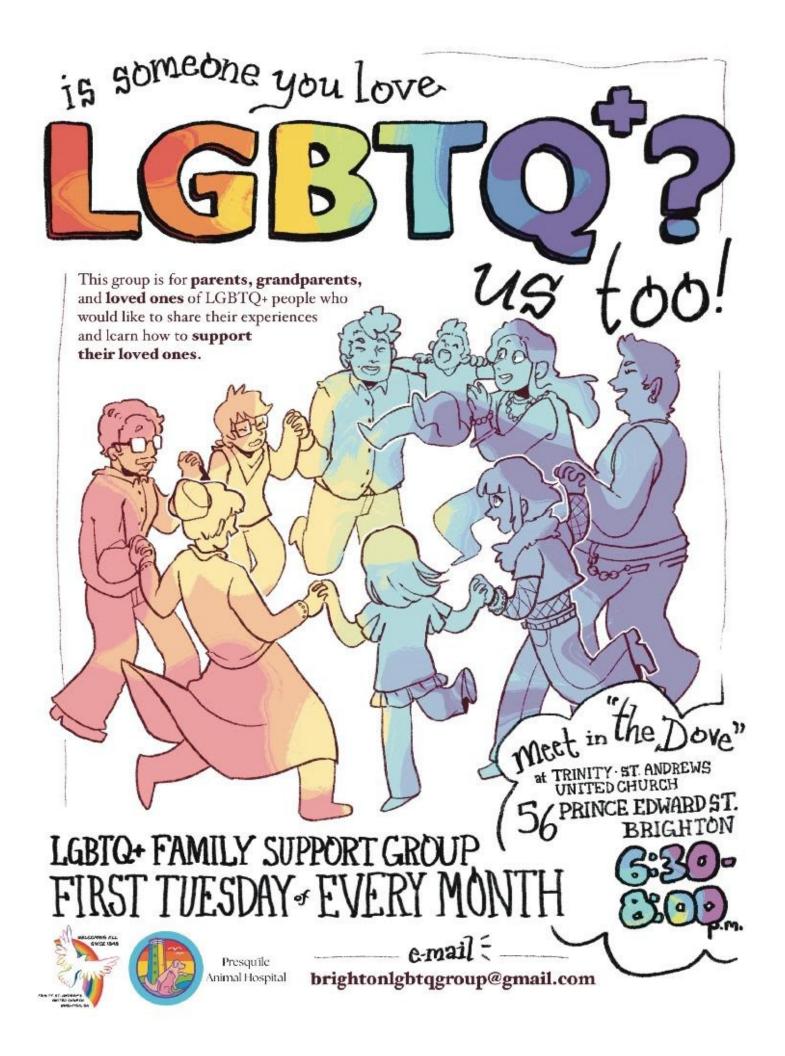
"We, The United Church of Canada, express our deepest apologies to all those who have experienced homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia within The United Church of Canada," the Apology reads in part. "This has at times looked like overt actions such as loss of income, harassment, being denied access to church leadership, and threats to personal safety. The church should be a place of sanctuary and belonging for all people. You deserve a church that reflects God's unconditional and abiding love." The full apology can be read here: https://generalcouncil.ca/document/2025-apology-2s-and-lgbtqia-people-and-communities.

LGBTQ+ Family Support Group

Our goal is to provide a safe, open and non-judgmental space for parents, grandparents and loved ones of LGBTQ+ family members to share experiences and support each other. This is the only in-person support group of its kind in Northumberland County and attendance has continued to grow over the past year.

We welcome members from anywhere in Northumberland County and beyond who would like to share experiences and learn how to support their LGBTQ+ loved ones. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Quiet Room at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church. The next meetings are Tuesday, October 7th and November 4th. For more information, please con-

tact brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com.





Building Use

Trinity-St. Andrew's is blessed to be a community hub, and these days, that hub is spinning with activity!

Of course, with any good thing, especially if it's a big change, it means we need to ask God for lots of grace, patience and understanding as we get used to bumping into each other in the halls, and adjust to

the pace of life in our building. OK that's an exaggeration, but there is no question we are making good use of the beautiful building God has given to us to steward.

Not only is the community choir Vocalese continuing to meet Monday nights, starting late October we will have a new community musical production company using our hall twice a week for rehearsals, and may just take over our building during their show week in April! On top of that, our children and young families committee is dedicated to serving the young people in our communities with homework clubs, drop-ins and musical gatherings.

Have a look at the schedule before, and join me in giving thanks to Creator God for the blessing of beloved community, the joy of fellowship through the arts, and the hope of healing that comes through study and service. If you need space at the church, please call the church office as this list is very fluid.

Sunday:	9:30 choir		
	10:30 worship		
	12:30 youth and young adult discussion group		
	(most weeks)		
Monday:	2:30-6:30 homework club		
	6:30 Vocalese		
Tuesday:	7:30am - 1:00pm Meals on Wheels		
	1:00pm-3:00pm drop in for home school community		
	7:00pm various groups meeting throughout the month		

6:00pm-9:00pm BrightOn Stage Productions

(starting late October)

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Wednesday:	10:00 -	12:30 office hours	
	10:00am bible Study		
	10:30-6:0	00 Supper's Ready	
	5:30 kids	craft time to coincide with supper's ready	
2nd Wed.	Only 2	2:00 Lectio Divina group	
4th Wed.	Only 2	2:30 caregivers peer support group	
 Thursday	9:30am	Joyful strummers	_
	10:00am	choir	
	11:00am	- 6:00 pm	
	(various	groups meeting throughout the month)	
	7:00pm (council once a month	
			_ Fr
day	9:00-noon	private healing space	
	6:00pm-9	9:00pm youth / young adults,	
	(monthly	music night, board games)	
 Saturday	8:30am	-1:00pm BrightOn Stage Productions	-
	(starting	November)	

Why Become a Member of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church?

Every year, as we begin our Annual General Meeting (AGM), we make a motion to allow adherents the right to vote on church matters. It's a practice that reflects our inclusive spirit and our belief that all who call this church home should have a voice. And yet, it also prompts an important question:

What does it mean to be a *member* of Trinity-St. Andrew's, and why might someone choose to take that step rather than remaining an adherent?

Adherents: Active and Involved

An *adherent* is someone who attends worship regularly and participates in the life and work of the congregation, but has not formally become a member. Adherents are valued and loved members of our church family, and their contributions—in worship, service, giving, and leadership—are essential to the life of our congregation.

We recognize and honour this by making space for adherents to vote at AGMs through a motion passed each year. However, that motion must be renewed annually and does not extend to all church decisions.

Membership: A Deeper Commitment

Becoming a *member* is a formal and spiritual commitment to the life and ministry of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, and to the wider United Church of Canada. Membership is an affirmation of your faith, your connection to this particular church family, and your desire to be part of shaping its future.

Here are some reasons to consider becoming a member:

- A Lasting Voice: Members automatically have the right to vote on all matters
 affecting the congregation, including calling a new minister, making major financial
 decisions, and more—without needing a motion to grant that right. Adherents may
 also vote at congregational meetings if the church council passes a motion granting
 them this privilege.
- A Spiritual Milestone: Membership is often a meaningful step in a person's faith journey. It's an opportunity to publicly affirm your faith and your connection to the community of Christ.
- Leadership Opportunities: Some leadership roles within the church (such as serving
 as an elder or on certain committees) require official membership. Becoming a member opens new doors to help guide and shape our church's mission. Adherents can
 serve on congregational committees if the congregation allows it. Adherents may
 only be elected to serve on church Council if an exception is granted by Regional
 Council.
- Connection to the Wider Church: Members are connected not only to our local church but also to the larger United Church of Canada. You become part of a national body that works for justice, peace, and compassionate ministry across the country and beyond.

How to Become a Member

If you're feeling called to take this next step, we'd love to walk with you. Becoming a member can happen through **transfer of membership**, **confirmation**, or **profession of faith**. We're happy to discuss what path fits your journey best.

Reach out to Reverend Wanda or a member of Church Council if you're interested or just want to learn more. There's no pressure—just an open invitation.

You Belong Here

Whether you're an adherent or a member, you are a cherished part of Trinity-St. Andrew's. But if you're looking to deepen your connection, take on new responsibilities, and affirm your commitment to this faith community, **membership might be the next faithful step** in your journey.

October 5/2pm Doors Open at 1:30pm



The Dove Presents



"I draw music from the many deep wells of North American roots music... I listen for notes of Spirit and I am drawn to the inherent dignity and power of truthful musical art."

Performance by

Max Woolaver

The Dove



(at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church) 56 Prince Edward St. Brighton, ON 613-475-1311



Tickets \$25

available at the Church Office or Lighthouse Books, Main St.

for ticket info - www.trinitystandrews.ca or thedoveinbrighton.ca



Supper's Ready

September suppers will kick off on the 2nd Wednesday, Sept 10. 5pm. All are welcome.

The church office is open:
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10am – 12:30pm

Pamela works from home on Mondays and Tuesdays.

