

**COVENANTING SERVICE WITH ARLYCE SCHIEBOUT**  
**TRINITY U.C., SMITHS FALLS**  
**AND FOUR RIVERS PRESBYTERY**

On Sunday, November 15, 2016, the congregation of Trinity U.C., Smiths Falls gathered in the sanctuary for Sunday worship and also to covenant with its minister the Rev. Arlyce Schiebout and the members of Four Rivers Presbytery. Laurie Duncan, Vice-Chair of Church Council extended a warm welcome to all who had come to share in this special occasion.

Life and Ministry of the Congregation

Norma Wrightly, a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL), was worship leader for the service. Following the call to worship and opening prayer, we joined in singing “Let Us Build a House” after which Sue Hutton, Chair of Four Rivers Presbytery, offered her own words of welcome for the day and invited us to continue the celebrations in Newboro on November 29<sup>th</sup> to covenant with Rideau Pastoral Charge and Catherine Oxenford-Grant.

Service of the Word

Emily Chatwood shared scriptures with us – Isaiah 43: 18 – 21 Prepare a way in the wilderness; Romans 12:1 – 13 We are all parts of one body; Mark 2: 18 – 22 Do not put new wine into old wineskins.

The choir offered the very beautiful “Come Follow Me” as their ministry of music.

The Rev. Eric Barr and Rev. Arlyce go back many years. Arlyce had preached at one of Eric’s covenanting services and he was delighted to be able to finally return the favour. His message was “Celebration, Renewal, Transition.”

Eric referred to #137 in the Red Hymnary “In all the Changing Scenes of Life.” He reminded us that every season brings change and it is not unusual for us to find it hard when the new replaces the old. We all need to learn to live with change but few of us handle it very gracefully.

This congregation had become comfortable with its 20 years with the Rev. Peter Woods – now they are embarking on a new relationship with Arlyce. The old may still beckon to us but the new is exciting and offers hope and an opportunity for change.

The new may be uncomfortable for some of us. Like the parable of the wineskins, it may be too easy to get set in our ways. We need to be able to accept new truths. Perhaps it is time to be adventurous, willing to experience new things, take some risks. We are about to start on a new journey into the unknown with a new leader.

God is active and alive and revealing himself to us. God is involved in change and works through change to reveal himself to us. When change occurs what do we do? We are most often tempted to resist it.

Sometimes God allows us to see different things in new ways. With every new truth we have to put all the old truths aside and change our way of thinking.

Eric’s message led us to sing “In the Bulb There is a Flower” after which we renewed our baptismal faith by joining in reciting A New Creed.

Covenanting and Presentation of Symbols

Sue Hutton, Chair of Presbytery, was presider for the service. The Co-Chairpersons of the Transition Team presented the Rev. Arlyce Schiebout who had been appointed to serve in Interim Ministry in Trinity U.C.

The presider posed the questions and Rev. Arlyce, the members and adherents of Trinity U.C. and the members of Four River Presbytery all promised to do their part to live out the covenant made this day as completely and faithfully as possible – God being our helper. Cheryl Bird, Ted Brett, Alvin Dobbie, Wayne Harris, Charlotte Hoy, Sue Hutton, Karen McLean, Micheline Montreuil, Donna Moon, Shelley Roberts, Cathy Ryan, Jim Warden and Norma Wrightly represented Four Rivers Presbytery.

Presenters of symbols of Arlyce’s ministry included Emily Chatwood, Laurie Duncan, Pat Hull, Sierra Peskett, Heather Quinn and Owen Wrightly. They brought a Bible, bread, wine and water, a towel and basin and a triangle (a symbol of

change). They reminded us there are three participants in this covenant and prayed that it be among us as we seek our future as People of God in the new life God puts before us. Sue Hutton declared a covenant had been made and closed with prayer.

Response to the Covenant

The offering was collected and will go to the Bay of Quinte Conference Student Bursary Fund to assist students in the ministry programmes of the United Church of Canada.

Following the Prayers of the People, we closed the afternoon with “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”. After the commissioning and benediction, the festivities moved to the lower level where everyone enjoyed a time of good food and fellowship.

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Sue Hutton, Chair

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Karen McLean, Secretary