

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

Smiths Falls, Ontario

Christmas 2013

Ministry Team

The Members and Adherents of Trinity United Church

The Reverend Peter C. Woods, M. Div.

Ms. Norma Wrightly, Student Supply Minister

Mr. John Wanless, Organist & Choir Director

Ms. Gwenda Kinch, Church Secretary

Trinity's Office Hours

*Please take note of Trinity's office hours.
They are as follows:*

**Monday thru Thursday
9:00am to 12:00noon.**



**TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH**
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada





MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM LEADER

For those who are not aware, Peter Woods, Trinity's ordained minister, is on sabbatical until the end of January. I have been appointed by Four Rivers Presbytery to fill in while he is away. As a "Candidate for Ordained Ministry" and as someone who is taking the required university courses, I have been employed as a Student Supply working part-time hours.

I have been hired to provide worship leadership and pastoral care, and to attend to other Church business as needed. What an enriching experience this is for me and regardless where my "call" leads me, this will have played an integral part in shaping my future.

It has been a comfort "preaching" in the church in which my husband, Bob, has attended since "cradle roll" days, where we were married, where our children and grandchildren have been baptised, in a church both of us call "home"; thank-you for being a kind and caring family for us. I would especially like to say thank you for all of the support afforded me as I learn and grow in this position (John Wanless has made me look good on more than one occasion).

Church life is not a solitary endeavour, it

takes many people to make everything work well and run smoothly. We are truly blessed to have a family that "pulls together" to ensure this happens every day not just on Sunday mornings.

"We are not alone . . .

We are called to be the Church . . .

Thanks be to God."

Respectfully,
Norma Wrightly

COUNCIL NEWS

At our November meeting, we were pleased to have two new members at the table. Norma Wrightly as our student supply minister during Rev. Woods' sabbatical joined us along with her off-site supervisor, Rev. Peter Dahlin from Zion Memorial United Church in Carleton Place. It was another opportunity to experience Norma's leadership and skills. Council welcomed Arnel Pattemore back as our Treasurer after a two-year break and he was officially appointed to that position at the meeting until the next Annual Congregational Meeting. Arnel is well versed in this position having served in that role for many prior years. Arnel brings his enthusiasm for the task and he has some concrete plans to keep our congregation well informed of our financial position.

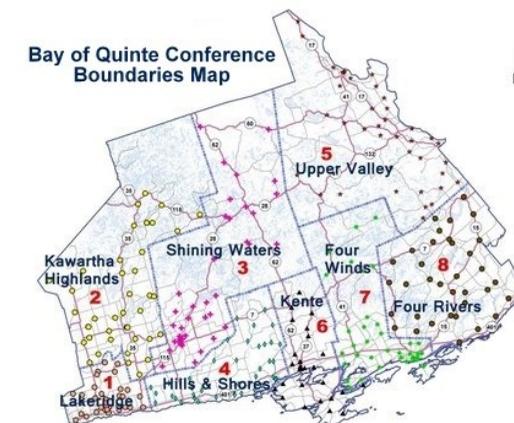
Vision and Mission Statements of the Four Rivers Presbytery

The following are from the Presbytery Website.

To mutually prepare, (equip) support and engage Congregations and Ministry Personnel to share and live out the transforming love and teachings of Jesus in our churches and communities.

To fulfill that mission Four Rivers Presbytery will work so that:

- we are transparent, compassionate, consultative and accountable to our Pastoral Charges and the wider church
- we act on the teachings of Jesus in the area of social justice, advocacy and the healing of the environment
- we uphold the values of fellowship, trust and support
- we welcome individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities and encourage all to participate in every aspect of our activities and ministries
- we act as a resource, and we share resources and ideas
- we worship together and nurture the spiritual life of ministry personnel and lay people
- we are accessible, inclusive, diverse and listen for voices not **often heard**
- we reclaim the term "evangelism" by seeking ways to share our faith that are congruent with who we are



MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

At the last meeting we expressed sympathy to Marguerite and the Cameron family on the passing of member Murray Cameron. Also noted that Al McFadden was making progress in Smiths Falls hospital.

Jim Warden

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY

"I like to visit your Presbytery. You laugh a lot, but all the work gets done." That is exactly what our new presbytery is like. I can only speak from a personal perspective, but I love presbytery. We have almost one year under our belts as the brand new Four Rivers Presbytery and I think that things are going very well. I think one of the reasons is that our chairperson is a down-to-earth person who knows how to lighten any situation. Also, if you know who Karen MacLean is, you will know that she is someone who is very efficient and extremely knowledgeable, working at all the things a secretary does and then some. Last, but by no means least, are the presbyters who are dedicated to work together to ensure their responsibilities are done properly and quickly. Four Rivers Presbytery has 21 Pastoral Charges and 19 UCW's. The UCW's form a shadow group called Four Rivers Presbyterial and report to Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY

Check out the Four Rivers Presbytery website: www.fourriverspresbytery.ca for information about upcoming events. If you would like to see what Presbytery does on your behalf, please, talk with Bud Fawcett, Brenda King or I and we will gladly arrange for you to come to the next meeting as a guest.

Respectfully,
Norma Wrightly

TYPHOON HAIYAN DONATIONS

The Canadian government has extended the deadline for the dollar-for-dollar matching of donations made by individuals to registered Canadian charities—including the United Church—for Typhoon Haiyan relief.

December 23, 2013, is now the date by which donations need to be received, either by the General Council Office or by congregations.

You can also use credit cards and the online donation form at ::

<http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/general/131129>

COUNCIL NEWS....

Financial pressures are always a topic of discussion at Council. While there were some preliminary enquiries to establish a line of credit, it has been decided to abandon that course of action at this time as it is too costly to maintain. The Trustees and the Stewardship Team along with the Treasurer will continue to discuss how best to manage your donations to meet the needs and mission of our congregation

Opportunities in 2014 will include the Council learning more about Affirming Ministries in the United Church. Many Conferences, Presbyteries and UCW Presbyterials have completed a process of discernment and reflection on what it means to be inclusive and justice-seeking. They have prepared a statement of faith and vision that sets out their ongoing commitment to work for justice on issues of gender diversity and sexual orientation within their congregation, the wider church and their community and to support and participate in the Affirming Ministry Program. There will be more information and resources available on this Ministry during the next year.

For anyone interested in becoming more involved at Trinity, there are several opportunities available including but not

COUNCIL NEWS....

limited to:

- Caring Ministry Team is looking for more members to share the task of visiting
- Spiritual Leadership Team is looking for someone to Chair this dynamic team
- Council Secretary to attend meetings and take minutes (only 5 times a year)
- Vice-Chair of Council to learn the position of Chair (so I can retire)!
- If you have an interest in the Audio/Video of our church services, you would be welcomed to learn from Klaas who would also like some time off from that task.

If you would like to work on a project or Team for a limited time, there are many opportunities to use your interest and skills. I would be pleased to hear from you at 613-812-1881 or jmontgomery@on.aibn.com. or Marguerite Cameron at 613-283-7438.

All Council meetings are open to anyone interested. Our next Council meeting is on Tuesday, January 25, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Upper Room.

On behalf of Council,
I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Jan Montgomery - Council Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UPDATE

Board of Trustee members are Bob Swan (Chairman), Stewart Graham (Treasurer), Muriel Dillabough (Secretary), David Johnston (Member) and Ron VanMeer (member). All current members have agreed to remain on the Board for 2014. However we certainly would welcome additional members to join the “team”. Please speak to me if you would consider becoming a member of the “Board”.

Your Board of Trustees has held two meetings since the last report for the Communicator. The following update is provided:

- Firstly, I must correct an error that I made in the Thanksgiving Communicator when I reported that the sum of “Funds Held in Trust” was \$76,536.19. The sum should have read \$78,523.19. Notwithstanding, the sum of “Funds held in Trust” continues to drop. As of November 29, 2013 the total of Funds held in Trust is \$78,153.98, with approximately \$15,000.00 as designated funds. \$72,000.00 is held in two GICs which do not mature until 2014. The balance of \$6153.98 is accessible funds. A final detailed report for 2013 will be presented in

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ...

Trinity’s 2013 Annual Report.

- I am pleased to report that the Church has received a very much welcomed “Gift of Life Insurance” which has been earmarked for and passed to the General Fund. Notwithstanding, there certainly is a requirement to rebuild Trinity’s “Funds Held in Trust”. You never know when an unexpected emergency might occur.
- Trustees continue to work on a “Legacy Giving Program” to re-build the Church’s “Funds held in Trust”. You will hear more about this initiative as the program is developed. The Trustees are working with Mr. Paul Sales who is the United Church of Canada’s Quebec & Eastern Ontario Regional Finance Development Officer.
- As the end of 2013 approaches, please keep Trinity’s “Funds Held in Trust” in your mind as you consider your charitable donations for 2013. For information, on making a contribution (either as a bequest or planned gift), please contact any member of the Board of Trustees or the church office.

REPORT FROM UCW

(continuation)

different areas and a chance to browse the book room. Lunch was served followed by a lovely afternoon. Our guest speaker was from Lanark County Interval House. She spoke eloquently of their programs and needs. She left us with the word CHOICES:

C-communication

H-honour

O-options

I -independence

C-comfort

E-excitement

S-support and safety.

A word we can all use.

We filled purple bags with items from their Wish list and managed to fill her small car to the roof, as well as a cheque for half the offering with the other half going to the Brockville center.

Each local U.C.W. was asked to bring a cup of water for the covenanting service. Water from the St. Lawrence, Rideau, Tay, and Mississippi rivers as well as several watersheds and wells were joined together, as we are, into one Presbyterial.

The other event was Mid Week with

REPORT FROM UCW....

(continuation)

Creativity as its theme. This was a Conference event so it was a pleasure to re-connect with friends. There was a panel of speakers that gave an overview of their religions. There was a lady of the Jewish faith, a young Muslim woman and a lady of the Catholic religion. It was enlightening to hear their views with a question and answer period after. We were entertained by the Red Hot Mamas and a brother and sister fiddling and step dancing team. This event was held at the Marguerite Center, formerly a convent, with a wing still devoted to the Nuns. Some of us stayed overnight and got to walk the labyrinth, see art displays and visit the book room.

Our congregation has been very supportive of our projects. Thank you to all who helped, donated and purchased items at our Candy Cane Bazaar. Thank you for the kind donations in memory of Marion

McFadden at the coffee time after church, and filling the box with items for Interval House.

Linda Stronski Co-Chair

CHURCH CHAT (continuation)

To Swaziland.....

On this land there is also the El Roi baby home for orphaned or abandon babies and the Labakhetsiwe toddler home for when the babies start walking. Now Heart for Africa is planning to start work on a new "big kids" home in 2014. I will get to help with this new home, preparing it for the kids of Project Canaan. I am really looking forward to this trip and coming back to share my experiences.

You can make donations at www.heartforafrica.ca my account number is 7002091, tax receipts are available.

Thank you to all for your support!,

Sierra is in grade 10 and attends St. Johns Catholic High School in Perth. She was part of the 2013 Confirmation Class and helps her Mom with Children's Ministry in the Upper Room. Her enthusiasm for youth events offered at Trinity and throughout the presbytery is awesome. Sierra is a great bowler and certainly shines at laser tag and paint ball. and free time too. Thank-you for helping me attend this Conference Youth Event.

CHURCH CHAT (continuation)

YOUTH EVENT

I had a great time at Pickering Village U.C. in Ajax, (October 25-27,2013). My favourite part was the workshops. We learned a lot about the First Nation Peoples; we also made medicine pouches. I enjoyed the games and free time too. Thank-you for helping me attend this Conference Youth Event.

Owen Wrightly

REPORT FROM UCW

The U.C.W. has been very busy this fall with lots of events to attend. I had the privilege to go to all of them.

A workshop was held at Camp Quin-molac in early October. About 44 attended and learned a lot about archives from Cheryl Mound and Wayne Harris. Betty Turcott was the other presenter on the Art and Skills of Story Telling. We need to write our stories down or they will be lost forever.

The Rally for the Four Rivers Presbyterial was held in Perth and was an all day event for those that wished to participate. The morning consisted of ice breakers and an opportunity to meet ladies from

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ...

- An updated inventory of Trinity's Property (furniture, effects and the like) has been completed. Special thanks go out to Dick Donaldson, Marguerite and the late Murray Cameron, and Ron Stronski for completing this laborious and very important task.

Bob Swan,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are presently in a deficit balance for the General account. I feel confident that together we can erase this deficit by the end of the year. Please do remember Trinity as you plan your Christmas givings.

It is my hope to keep you well informed about the financial health of the church. Although these can be challenging times, we are blessed to have a caring and responsible congregation. Please do not hesitate to tell me of your ideas, your suggestions, and your questions.

I do wish all of you the Compliments of the Season.

Sincerely
Arnel W. Pattemore.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The main challenge for our committee is finances. The GENERAL FUND is not keeping up with our operating costs. Paying both a minister and a supply at the same time is proving to be a financial challenge.

The recent high winds have damaged our roof again and it looks like another Insurance claim with the deductible payable.

An anonymous donor is enabling us to update our office computers which will help ease the office workload.

An increase in participation in the Gift Card and Meat Pie fund-raisers would be a huge help in boosting the General Fund.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas Bake Sale at the County Fair Mall on Dec.6th.

Last but not least, we could use a couple of more members on our committee.

**Season's Greetings
from
the Stewardship Team.**

Fred Haughton
and
John Murphy,
Co-Chairs.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEAM

The Membership and Welcoming Task Group is excited to have access to the Church Watch Computer program soon. This will be a help updating our membership roll.

Caring Ministry Task Group continues their work with reaching out to our extended church family in our community. The first Tuesday of the month a church service is held at Van Horne and Willowdale Retirement Residences and Broadview Nursing Home. We are blessed to have Judy Drummond play piano for us. In home visits, hospital, retirement and nursing homes total approximately twenty visits a month made by team members. Two Trinity members pick up and drive approximately four people to Sunday service now that the bus is cancelled. Twenty-three prayer shawls have been given out. We continue to look for more volunteers. If you have



Prayer Shawl Ministry

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEAM.....

a little spare time and a listening ear please call Pat Hull at 283-6171 or Sharon O'Neill at 283-6929.

The Communication Task Group continues to produce this newsletter, maintain the website and Facebook page and provides weekly Sunday announcements. We are looking for a co-chair, and new members comfortable with the use of Microsoft Publisher, Contact Peter Au at 284-8338.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hull
Chair

FROM THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

December is full of unique and different ways to worship during Advent.

Dec. 8, Sunday - White Gift Sunday
"Stone Soup" Trinity's Youth share the message of sharing through this short skit. They will also be serving soup for lunch after the service to help Sierra Peskett raise funds for her mission/awareness trip to Swaziland. Free will offering.

Dec. 15, Sunday – From Sorrow to Joy
A service designed to recognize the blues we sometimes feel in a season of great joy.

FROM THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM ...

Dec. 21, Saturday – Nine Lessons and Carols 7:00 p.m.

Trinity's Choir presents the story of Christmas through song and verse. Free will offering. Seasonal treats and fellowship to follow in the church hall.

Dec. 22, Sunday – Christmas Pageant

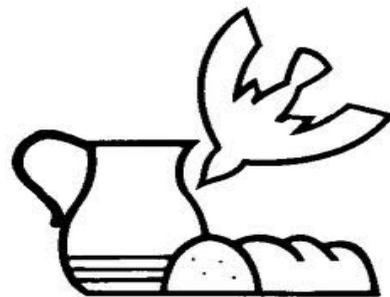
A pageant style service full of music and the nativity story as told with the help of Children's Ministry.

Dec. 24, Tuesday – Christmas Eve

Service for Children – 6:00 p.m. A unique hands-on journey through the Nativity Story. Little ones help Norma and Sue tell the story with wooden dolls and plush animals.

Family Service – 7:30 p.m. Bring the whole family to greet friends, share in Christmas music and hear a special Christmas message.

"Silent Night" Agape Service – 11:00 p.m. Share the love and joy of the season through a quiet agape style service of communion.

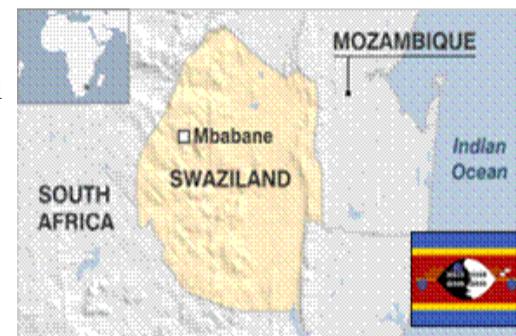


CHURCH CHAT

Church Chat is a new forum for youth at Trinity to share a little bit about what is going on in their spiritual lives; events they have attended or initiatives they are interested in.

To Swaziland

Hello, my name is Sierra Peskett and I will be traveling to a small country in the southern tip of Africa called Swaziland, from July 12 to the 22 in 2014. This trip is a mission awareness trip, in which I will be doing many things to help with and see the workings of Heart for Africa, a Christian based charitable organization.



In Swaziland, I will be going to local churches to help establish and nurture community gardens that help the locals get essential vitamins from fruits and vegetables into their diet. I will also be visiting Project Canaan, the Heart for Africa farm where the locals can work and earn a fair wage in safe working conditions to support themselves and their family.