

**REV CHRISTOPHER RYAN
REPORT 2017**

Luke 10:25-37 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?"

The man replied, "The Scriptures say, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.' They also say, 'Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.'"

Jesus said, "You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life."

But the man wanted to show that he knew what he was talking about. So he asked Jesus, "Who are my neighbors?"

To which Jesus replied with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, "Which one of these three people was a real neighbor to the man who was beaten up by robbers?"

Knowing what the greatest commandments were was nothing new. Everybody agreed. Jesus did not introduce this teaching.

Expanding the understanding of "neighbour" and declaring a Samaritan a hero in doing so was new... radically so. Jesus was criticized for his broader understanding, his new teaching and inclusion.

The United Church of Canada and Trinity understands this.

Trinity has a way of understanding what it means to be a traditional congregation and a living community in a changing world; always recognizable and always new. This is how we bring that which is comforting and familiar yet remain relevant in a dynamic environment. Our Home is always fresh.

Coming through transition we could have chosen "New look, same great taste," changing the box but still eating Corn Flakes. Instead Trinity maintains a familiar look and feel while adapting ministry priorities and adopting initiatives that address the needs of the community in which we reside,... today. Thus, when you come home to Trinity you know where you are, and you can see how we matter in new ways... "Familiar feel, nourishment for today." This is part of what we call the Trinity Experience.

Our Communications Team lives the Trinity Experience well. I first visited Trinity via the Web two years ago when I was asked to take a service in February. I looked to see what Trinity was about. It was impressive and helpful. I visited the Website again, two years later, in March. I wanted to approach an application to serve as your Minister in an informed manner. Everything seemed new and even better while remaining distinctly Trinity. I was quickly drawn in and engaged.

The Spiritual Leadership Team takes care that Worship seems familiar while inviting participation from the broader community by including new people and forms. Services with special intent honour other agencies that serve Smiths Falls while Trinity on Tuesday is an expression of our desire to find a way, place and time to be church that is accessible for busy families.

The Christian Community Team remains faithful in providing care within the congregation and beyond. True to the Trinity Experience, new ways of expressing care in community are being explored such as Healing Pathway and Home Communion for Members and Friends with limited mobility. We offer thanksgiving to a resident artist and another benefactor for helping us send some 470 Christmas Cards.

The Outreach and Social Justice Team was the subject of interest late in 2017 and will be formally populated in early 2018. It is anticipated that a number of concerns will be animated in the coming year such as: Indigenous Reconciliation, LBGTQ2 Justice and Inclusion, Community Support, Food Security and Environmental Stewardship.

Our Stewards and Treasurer have been busy guiding Team Leadership through the process of writing a Narrative Budget. It was inspiring to see how our congregational Leaders were able to breathe passion into a process that sounds less than exciting at the beginning. This was representative of the hope and intent of a Narrative Budget - to express life and meaning in all our communication ... including the budget.

I cannot comment on the importance of the UCW without immediately feeling awed and humbled. We are blessed through the UCW with great strength in leadership and service.

While Property and Trustees are totally different, both work quietly and effectively. Investments are sound while repairs, maintenance and minor modifications happen around us,... silently ... and seemingly at night.

And of course, every month, men get together, tell the same stories in a way that remains interesting, fun and fresh. This is a mystery of good fellowship. We manage to eat breakfast too.

My first few months among you have been wonderful. I enjoyed my two decades away. It was important ministry. I was well ready to come home and here you were. Trinity feels immediately familiar. Trinity also feels fresh.

Many new adventures in ministry lay ahead as we Connect, Inspire and Serve together.

Blessings All,

Christopher

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2017

As you have been hearing the Council upon the recommendation of the Stewardship Team has embarked on a new way to tell our Ministry stories using a Narrative Budget for planning our 2018 Budget. The Teams have undertaken a great deal of time and effort to envision their ministries ever mindful of the streams of importance as identified by the congregation at the conclusion of our interim ministry – Worship, Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Justice/Outreach, Stewardship, Leadership and Ministry Partnerships. The Narrative Budget recognizes that you do not give money to the church; you give money through the church to translate God's mission into action. While a Line Item Budget tells us where the money goes, a Narrative Budget tells what the money does. The Council looks forward to sharing this new approach to telling your stories of ministry at Trinity for the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2018.

The year 2017 held some high points for Trinity. We concluded our 20-month Interim Ministry in June and said goodbye to Rev. Arlyce Schiebout who shepherded us through an intense process of examining our history, defining our mission going forward and implementing the structures necessary to accomplish the goals.

The Council was delighted to accept the recommendation of the Spiritual Leadership Team to contract with a new Music Director, Wendy Stokes-Earl. Wendy is not new to Trinity having served as Organist from 1979 to 2004 when she and her husband, Winston, left to spend the winters in South Texas. You can read more about Wendy on the Trinity United SF website.

Meanwhile the Joint Search Team was busy reviewing applications from interested Ministerial personnel desiring to be called to Trinity. The Team recommended to the Council and congregation their candidate, the Reverend Christopher Ryan, retiring military Chaplain. The Council is very enthused to be working with Rev. Christopher who is bringing a renewed energy and direction to our meetings.

I would like to thank those who serve on the Teams and the Team leaders for their dedication. Many hands make light work as they say. The Council through its Nominating Team is seeking to fill the vacancies on the various Teams. We encourage anyone who is interested in serving the church by sharing your gift of time and talent to contact the Council Chair or Marguerite Cameron (613-283-7438) who will match your skills to the appropriate Team.

This coming year 2018 holds so many possibilities for Trinity to connect, inspire and serve as we embark on a new Covenant with Rev. Christopher.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Montgomery
Council Chairperson
jmontgomery827@gmail.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 2017

The Board of Trustees wish to thank everyone who contributed to keeping Trinity in terrific shape during the past year. Again, we want to recognize the hard work of Property Team members, Chuck Kempt, Bud Fawcett and Ron Stronski and the volunteers who assisted them. It is gratifying to see the Property Team re-establish a “long range-planning” approach to the church’s annual maintenance, repair and renovation plan. Trinity is a beautiful church and that is due to the on-going great work and support of so many dedicated people both through their talents, time and financial support.

Financial Report

The Trustee’s Annual Financial Report is presented in the Financial Review Section of the Annual Report.

Investing “Funds in Trust”

The Graham-Dixon Group of BMO-Nesbitt Burns continues to provide professional advice and investment portfolio management to Trinity’s Board of Trustees in executing its investment responsibilities. As a reminder, our investment strategy is to help rebuild our “Funds in Trust” and to provide annual income for the use of the Church, while protecting our principle investment. Our overall strategy is to hold a mix of GICs, Bonds, Equity and Dividend Funds. In 2017, upon the recommendation of our financial advisors we increased our holdings, by a small percentage, of US dividend paying funds given the improvement in the US economy. Moving into 2018 we are maintaining our strategic mix of investments. The Board of Trustees will review Trinity’s BMO Investment Portfolio at its next scheduled meeting in May 2018. A statement regarding Trinity’s Investment Accounts can be found in the Trustees Financial Report.

Legacy (Planned) Giving

Trinity did not receive any new Legacy Gifts in 2017. However, we did receive the remaining portion of a bequest received in 2016. We are most grateful for all gifts that are provided to the church to help us do God’s work within our congregation, community and beyond.

Once again Trinity’s Legacy gift Program offers a variety of ways that members, adherents and friends of Trinity can make a gift to assist in sustaining the future of Trinity. Information as to the various ways that you can participate in the Legacy Giving Program, and the potential benefits are may be available to you as a donor, are available at the church.

Board of Trustee Membership 2018

All current members of the Board of Trustee; Muriel Dillabough, David Johnston, Bill Dickson and Steven Blair and I have agreed to serve for another year (2018). Stewart Graham will remain on the Board **but only** as an Investment advisor, so we are looking for someone to take over the Treasurer’s duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Swan
Chairperson

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY REPORT 2017

Membership and Welcoming

We are always aware of who we are welcoming to Trinity United and who we are missing each Sunday. With that in mind, we keep in contact with a card, phone call or visit. Thanks to Jeannie Walton for faithfully getting the greeters every Sunday. People are encouraged to wear their name tags.

The information cards in the pews for visitors have been redesigned. This is an interesting resource for visitors and also gives us the needed information to perhaps connect with people. The Emergency Telephone Tree document has been updated in case the church needs to be closed.

We are excited about the Trinity Family Photo Album which will be arriving by the end of January 2018. We are expecting 118 copies plus a few extra copies. We thank Cathy Pickup and Chris Dickson and all those who helped in any way with the photo sessions. Thanks to Al Foubert, Prestige Images, for his patience and professional photography skills. We have observed that some people who were invited to be part of this directory have also come home for church services.

A review of the Trinity United Church Roll was undertaken. This resulted in the removal, with permission, of people who no longer attend our church. Naturally they will always be welcomed home whenever.

Concern was expressed about photos in the Historic Room being stored in acetate folders. Consequently, these photos were removed and placed in a photo box. We are looking for someone, with an interest in the history of Trinity, to help with updating and continuing entries, and encouraging the sharing of information with interested people.

We thank people and teams who happily provide snacks for Hospitality after church every Sunday. In meeting with our friends, we say, "I wonder...." or "What if...?" or "How did...?" or "What do you think...?"

Hasty notes were sent out in September to tell the good news of Rev. Ryan's arrival as our minister. The invitation was given to come and welcome him and Lorraine and be inspired by his messages.

In the future, we will be asking our adherents if they would like to become full members of Trinity United Church. We are pleased to welcome Lorraine Ryan, as a member of Trinity.

Caring Ministry

We are always excited to bring our worship services to Willowdale Retirement Centre, Van Horne Manor and Broadview Nursing Home on the first Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to join us and perhaps be inspired to connect with someone in these homes on a regular basis. Their stories and the stories we bring of God's love are so special. We also raise our voices in thanksgiving, with thanks to Judy Drummond for playing the piano.

Our group approached the Property Team about creating a small ramp by the front entrance to the church, to enable easier access for people using walkers and wheelchairs. Many thanks to the team. That has been completed.

Our Daily Bread, a daily inspirational booklet, continues to be ordered and is available to anyone wishing one.

Trinity offers a taxi service to anyone wishing to attend our services. Your ride to the church will be paid for and a member will drive you home. This is an initiative by the Stewardship Team.

People from our group and other members support the Community Dinners at Westminster Presbyterian Church each month. Your help would be appreciated by donating dessert or fruit or by helping with the cleanup.

Besides visiting regularly, we also have a card ministry to keep in touch. Prayer shawls are also another way we bring comfort to our friends.

We are being given the opportunity to explore “Healing Pathways” at St. Paul’s United Church in Perth in the future. Barb Loyne’s introduced us to this programme. This is an experience for any interested member at Trinity.

We see God’ Spirit working in our congregation. If you have any ideas for us to strengthen our commitment to our church, please share with us.

CARE (Connect Assist Relate Encourage)

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Sirett
Chairperson

COMMUNICATION TEAM REPORT 2017

In May of 2017, the communication task force of Christian Community, became the Communication team by order of Council. Its mandate is to facilitate open communication between council, teams, congregation and the community at large. We have been doing the tasks assigned, except **e-newsletters**, which is done by the Church Secretary. This is so because they are time-sensitive electronic messages to the congregation or activities and Trinity News that need special attention.

New Church brochures were printed to highlight Trinity's Mission and Vision, its core values, the Trinity Experience and Worship Services. These were distributed to church attendees and made available to guests and new comers.

Starting in the 2018, a new column of "**Letters to the editor**" will be included in our **Communicators**, featuring comments and suggestions from our congregation. **Future event-dates** between issues of Communicators also be listed – we request all to contribute.

We are working on an **email policy**; please see a work in progress article in the upcoming **Easter Communicator**. We request your comments and feedback.

Trinity's services are recorded and shown in **Cogeco Channel 10** on Thursday and Sundays at 10 a.m. These are the joint efforts of Emily Chatwood, Bill and Chris Dickson.

For those with computers, our sermons are now on a special **YouTube** channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwrBTGylniW5OwF6MIW7aA>.

You can share your favourite reflections with friends and families, particularly those connected with Trinity, but cannot attend church for various reasons.

These and other videos are also found in our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls/videos/>

If we have members interested in learning how to use these technologies, workshops could be created to fill the need.

Coming in the very near future is a new hearing assistance system.

Our proposed budget includes proper signs for various church events; equipment for family movie nights and install a TV in the window space currently used for name of Minister and staff, to share videos, photos of happenings in Trinity and promote its upcoming events to passers by.

We value suggestions and involvements of our members. Please contact any of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Au (chair), Daisy Au, Diane Bennett, Tom Foulkes,
Arlene Hunter, Mary Joynt, Chris Dickson (vice chair).
Your Communication Team

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL TEAM REPORT 2017

Members of our team for the 2017 year were Dave Bennett, Jim Hill and Heather Morrison.

We conducted annual reviews with staff. The new Position Description for Secretary was reviewed.

We were able to keep the office open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through July and August, while the secretary was on holidays. Thanks to Jan Montgomery, Judy Drummond and Elizabeth Donaldson for volunteering their time.

Trinity hosted a Ministry and Personnel Workshop given by Presbytery on March 4, 2017. It was facilitated by Rev. David Timpson from Bay of Quinte Conference and Wayne Harris of Four Rivers Presbytery. This was very informative and helpful to all M&P committees. Trinity was well represented by many who attended.

As chair of M&P, I worked on a Narrative Budget for Ministry and Personnel. I thank Bob Swan for his leadership in this endeavour for all the committees of Trinity.

Our committee was very supportive in recommending to Council, that Rev. Christopher Ryan be the designated Chaplain for the Smiths Falls Police Services, and the Community, in times of crisis. This became effective October 19, 2017.

We look forward to a great year with Rev Christopher Ryan, Minister, Wendy Earl, Organist and our Secretary. Thanks for all your contributions to Trinity United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Drummond
Chairperson

PROPERTY TEAM REPORT 2017

The Property Team supports the Trinity Ministry Teams. It provides safe, secure and comfortable facilities to support the work of the church. The work of the Property Team included the following non cyclic repairs:

- We had several roof repairs completed in 2017. This work supports all the Trinity Ministry Teams.
- We repaired the church hall bathroom, toilet and vanity, cleaned the carpets and replaced the Kitchen taps and are repairing floor damage in the choir room. The carpets in the hall were also cleaned. We added information bulletin boards to improve communication. This work supports the Trinity Ministry Teams and the work of the U.C.W.
- We repaired the Boiler Circulating pump and removed asbestos surrounding the pipes. The asbestos surrounding the pipes in the gym was also repaired. This work supports the Trinity Ministry Teams, the administrative staff and the Minister.
- We removed pews and built an AV Booth in the Sanctuary. This work supports the outreach ministry.
- The hand rail leading to the church hall was loose and the support was replaced. This work supports our obligation to meet accessibility requirements.
- After many problems with the lift, the latest repairs have it working with consistency and confidence. This work is part of our obligation to meet accessibility requirements.

For the Budget year 2018 Property will undertake the following task over and above building maintenances:

Roof repair- Our proposed plan is to have the roof damage repaired in the spring .Then we will access the condition and estimated life left before complete roof replacement is needed. The results will be presented to council.

Stair modification to accommodate funerals –There appears to be a problem moving a casket down the stairs in that the current design caused binding. We will investigate the problem and if necessary find a solution for presentation to council.

Hall floor We will clean the carpet annually until such time as funds are available to replace it. Property will identify the types and costs of the various replacement options for presentation to council.

Building Security and safety – The term security in this case includes locks and keys, alarms and fire safety. This requirement will have us assess our current status and identify future requirements for presentation to council.

Cushions for the pew seats- We will look at the cost and best material for pew cushions and provide the estimate to council.

Custodian Services – The Custodian 3 year contract ends this year. We will assess the need and present our finding to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Property Team

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP REPORT 2017

Trinity's Spiritual Leadership Team, in general, is responsible for worship and Christian Education i.e. Children's & Youth Ministry, Adult Ed. The Team works closely with the Minister to ensure the worship services are relevant for the congregation and reflective of United Church theology and indicative of the church calendar.

Lent/Easter: Scripture based symbols were displayed, a Palm Sunday play was presented, and the Maundy Thursday service was enjoyed. Good Friday worship was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church and we participated in the Good Friday Walk. Easter Sunrise was held on the lawn at Trinity, followed by a simple breakfast. The regular service was held at 10:30 a.m. The Earth Day service was led by members of SLT.

Pentecost was celebrated with a Worship Dance presentation by Maryn Hunter and friend to the hymn "Be Thou My Vision." Keelan Wrightly was Confirmed. He attended classes with others from the Presbytery. This was a new initiative offered by Four Rivers Presbytery.

In June we said farewell to our Intentional Interim Minister: Arlyce Schiebout with a de-commissioning service.

Trinity joined with our friends at Westminster for services in July and resumed services at Trinity in August. The Licensed Lay Worship Leaders were: Barb De Jeet, Lynne Dimma, and Norma Wrightly. The UCW led two services one in August and Women's Sunday in October.

We welcomed the Reverend Christopher Ryan in September. Under Christopher's leadership we have seen an increase in lay participation and community involvement in our worship service—on site and off. We happily held a Covenanting Service with Rev. Christopher, our congregation and Four Rivers Presbytery on December 03. The Rev. Allan Hall, General Council's Executive Officer of Ministry and Employment, was the guest speaker. Rev Christopher was also recognized as the Police Services Chaplin.

Music leadership was provided by Sunday Supply from January till June with thanks going to Madelyn Piehl, Carolyn Whitley, Larry Paul, Judy Drummond, Joan Grant and Valerie London. We were pleased to have Wendy Stokes-Earl re-join our church family as Music Director/Organist in June. We are grateful to the choir and Wendy for the music leadership they provide each Sunday. Thanks to members of our congregation, we now have enough pew copies of 'More Voices'.

Advent/Christmas: Trinity joined in the ecumenical "Sounds of Christmas" in support of the Salvation Army's Christmas Hamper. The tri-church (St. John's Anglican, Westminster Presbyterian, and Trinity United) Advent Walk culminated at Trinity with scripture readings, hymn singing, and a soup supper. December 24th, the last Sunday in Advent service was held in the morning and the evening services were the regular Christmas Eve services: a 4:30 Children's Service featuring the familiar story told a new way, the Family Service was at 7:00 p.m., followed by the 10:30 p.m. Communion service.

The Children's Ministry is a vibrant ministry that reached beyond Sunday mornings by hosting three family film nights, which included a light supper. Thank you to Heidi Peskett and Jana Plaunt for your dedication

to connect, inspire and serve. Owen Wrightly travelled with others from our Conference to El Salvador in March. Owen and Keelan Wrightly attended the Conference Annual Meeting in Brockville. Owen attended the Conference Fall Youth event and was elected as one of five youth, one of which will be selected to be a "pilgrim" to travel across Canada reviewing what is being offered for Youth presently within the Church and then will be a delegate to GC43 this summer.

Ron Botham diligently served as Head Usher. Ron ensures bulletins, offering envelopes, newsletter are handed out. He oversees having ushers present on Sundays. He has a wide variety of tasks each Sunday and is available to answer your questions.

Bible study was held on Wednesday mornings, led by Rev. Arlyce and Rev. Christopher. These continue in 2018 and everyone is welcome.

One of our new initiatives is Trinity Tuesday's. These are alternative services. These meet the needs of all ages and all are welcome. The first Tuesday is a Relaxed Service, the 2nd: Coffee House with an art base, the 3rd: Messy Church, which is like Sunday School for all and the 4th is Jesus Jams, featuring music. Then there is the occasional 5th Tuesday, led by one of the Council's Teams. SLT had a games night on Halloween. These services provide a simple supper incorporated into the worship experience. A sign-up sheet has been posted to help with the set-up/clean-up and meals.

We have intentionally slowed down the serving of communion and we will continue to serve gluten-free bread as the host. We have a prayer box, for prayers not spoken out loud, which we pray over every week.

We thank the tech folk: Bill Dickson and Emily Chatwood. SLT is always looking for help with audio/visual on Sunday mornings. Training is available. Thank you for your patience while we search for the best Hearing Loops to meet the needs of this congregation.

Rainbow Sabbath resumed on the second Friday of the month. This is for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. The Affirm workshop held at St. Paul's, Perth was promoted and attended by members of Trinity.

We celebrated at baptisms and weddings and provided support and prayers at funerals. Trinity is a place to call home, especially during these important times in the lives of families.

Spiritual Leadership welcomes all of your suggestions in providing meaningful worship and education. If you have an idea, please, share it with a member of our team. Our member's names can be found in this Annual report.

Respectfully,

Heather Quinn
Chairperson

Norma Wrightly
Recording Secretary

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM
REPORT 2017**

We had a new event in the fall, “Sing for Thanksgiving”, it was similar to Salt and Light which went really well last year.

There have been a few changes to our banking procedures, it seems to be working and cutting down on banking fees.

Please don't forget about the gift card sales, it is a great fund raiser for the church, we benefit from each card sold.

We had a great fund raiser with our geraniums again, thanks to everyone who helped and special thanks to Arnel who plays a big part.

Stewardship Team is looking forward to the upcoming year. Thanks to everyone who was on last year's team and for assistance from everyone who do not sit on the team.

Respectfully submitted,

June Pevere
Chairperson

FOUR RIVERS PRESBYTERY LAY REPRESENTATIVES REPORT 2017

Four Rivers Presbytery Vision Statement

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.

Please refer to <http://www.fourriverspresbytery.ca> for more detailed information regarding Presbytery.

- Delegates to Presbytery are: Judy Drummond, John (Bud) Fawcett, Brenda King and Norma Wrightly. Linda Stronski sat on the Presbytery executive as the UCW rep for Four Rivers Presbyterial until the rise of conference.
- Our ministers, Arlyce and Christopher, are members of Presbytery.
- The full court met five times in 2017.
- There are seven committees: Congregational Life/Christian Growth, Rev. Christopher sits on this committee; Ministry Vocations; Nominations; Pastoral Oversight, Judy sits on this committee; Pastoral Relations; Resources & Communications; Wider Church, Bud, Brenda and Norma sit on this committee.
- Joanne Fletcher is the current Chairperson. She was preceded by Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro.
- In 2014, Four Rivers Presbytery partnered with the Islamic Society of Kingston to resettle Syrian refugee families in Kingston. Others have helped with Save a Family from Syria since that time. We have sponsored six families to date.
- Emma Pipes has been hired part time as the Presbytery Youth Worker till May 2018. Young people continue to meet regularly within the Presbytery for events. Transportation support is supplied for our youth to attend the Conference Annual Meeting Youth Event and the Conference Fall Youth Event.
- Remits 1 to 4. All four remits were approved.
- Presbytery is responsible for covenanting services held with congregations and new ministers. Our service was held on December 3.
- Under the leadership of Conference minister the Rev. Dr. Jackie Harper, twelve youth took Confirmation classes together and then were Confirmed in their home Church's. Cathy Ryan, Ministry Vocations was able to attend all services.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Wrightly

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN REPORT 2017

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2

Trinity’s United Church Women (UCW) is a group within the church that works to achieve their purpose “To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to be a means by which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.”

It is a ‘tall order’, but the women of this congregation have worked towards achieving this in a variety of ways.

We meet regularly: Our general meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday in January, March, April, September, and November. The regular business is done after we have a worship/devotional time. Yet, UCW isn’t all business. The other months we host a Fun & Fellowship time the third Wednesday in the afternoon from 1-3 p.m. You might find us playing board games, making crafts or enjoying some other form of entertainment. You are most welcome to join us at any time for a meeting or a time of relaxation.

We have two Units at Trinity. The Friendship Unit is led by Ann Marleau and they meet on the first Tuesday of the month except during the winter when they have been meeting during the day on the first Wednesday. The other Unit, New Horizons, is led by Linda Stronski and in 2017 they met on the second Tuesday in the evening.

Please, check the bulletin board in the church foyer, the church bulletin or the Website for meeting times and places as they are under review for 2018.

As a whole we supported: Our local church and its ministries by providing an offering for the general fund and the Good Samaritan Fund of our church and for the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Through a variety of ways we provide financial support for all levels of the UCW: Four Rivers Presbyterial, the Conference UCW, and the National United Church Women.

We value the work of our Church Camps: Camp LauRen, Golden Lake, and Quin Mo Lac. We strongly believe in this ministry for children and youth and realise that there are times that this is the only exposure to the Christian faith that these young people will experience. New Horizon’s also hosted a brunch with funds going towards camperships for our children.

We have an adopted child through the Christian Children’s Fund. Trinity’s UCW has helped to raise children for over twenty years through this Fund.

We encourage those entering ordered ministry through the Bay of Quinte Conference UCW Bursary Fund. It has been our honour to help, in some small way, those who have answered ‘The Call’ to enter into Diaconal or Ordained Ministry within the United Church of Canada.

Our UCW, also, supports the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada and their various programs. The World Day of Prayer has been supported by women from Trinity for close to 100 years. Women from this congregation were founding members of the Smiths Falls Women’s Inter-church group and continue to take lead positions within that group. We gather our ‘least coins’ for the International Fellowship of the Least Coin; no longer collecting pennies as we had done for years, now we collect nickels—the least coin of our country. Both the WDP and the FLC provide grant money to support women and children around the world.

Annually, we encourage people to support Lanark County Interval House with personal care items and gift cards.

In support of the Conference UCW 55th Anniversary initiative to support Shannen's Dream, the New Horizons Unit held a Sunday morning Coffee Party with free-will donations for this project.

We encouraged our women to take part in UCW events such as the Presbyterial Annual Meeting and the Fall Rally; by attending other meetings of other Presbyterials, and the Bay of Quinte Conference UCW events, which included the Annual Meeting, UCW Camp Quin Mo Lac weekend, and Mid-Week. We, also, encouraged women to take advantage of the Education Day that took place in the fall. This year we were pleased to hear from Betty Turcott about writing our own monologues and how to use her new book, "And she said. . ."

The 55th UCW Anniversary celebrations, "Celebrating Spirit", were held in Vancouver B.C. and three of our women were able to attend that event and led a worship service upon their return featuring their experiences. Locally, our UCW led a worship service in October where we honoured our Charter members by making a donation to Shannen's Dream. We, also, recognized those women who were no longer with us.

How in the world did we support all that we did? Well, we hosted a Chili Supper to help one of our youth go to El Salvador with others from our Conference. We had a Ham and Bean Supper and our Strawberry Social was probably the first of the season. We make pies in the fall—that is about 1,000 apple pies, and we hosted a Christmas Bazaar in early November. We are always grateful for the generous support this congregation and community have provided for all of our endeavors. We especially thank you for your support for our Bake-less Bake Sale and the UCW Thank offering. The envelopes are distributed with the fall Newsletter.

The Friendship Unit caters for funeral teas, birthdays, and anniversaries for members of our congregation. They also raised funds with a New to You sale, which is good for the environment, the clients and our church. Annually, they provide a wonderful Christmas dinner for the retired teachers group. They use these funds to support the various ministries of our church.

The General UCW and the Friendship Unit have set some money aside to help with new flooring in the church hall when that is decided upon by the Property Team and Council.

Trinity's Prayer Shawl Ministry continued to knit and crochet prayer shawls and lap blankets for people. If you or someone you know would benefit from one of these, please talk with Linda Stronski, Barb Byam, or Norma Wrightly.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to have a new president, Jane Turpin, taking the lead in February 2018. Planning for 2018, we realised we are not as young as we once were and our ability to do all that we once did is more challenging. We are scaling back with some of our events and looking at new ways to continue to live out our purpose, always remembering that God is our refuge and our strength.

Linda and I wish to extend our personal thank-you for the support we have received as we have shared the President's position as co-chairs. We are grateful for the women of this congregation who willingly step up to take on leadership roles, even when they feel unsure—what courage and faith they exhibit—discipleship in action. Linda and I will continue our support for all that our local UCW plans to do as we continue our faith journeys at the Conference UCW and Presbyterial levels respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stronski & Norma Wrightly
Co-presidents