

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

Smiths Falls, Ontario

Christmas 2014



WOODCHIPS #1

As we grow older, we also grow wiser. Hopeful words? I offered a series of sermons on the topic of Aging in October, and received lots of feedback- positive comments mostly, but also many insights and resources were shared. There is a collective wisdom in an ageing congregation, and it was fascinating to tap into that deep well of stories and insight on any given Sunday. One of the most moving was to hear so many people share, after a sermon on the topic, their moment spent watching their children head off into the world on their own. Powerful common ground experiences for so many of us as parents, and a necessary universal step we have all taken as we have grown into adulthood ourselves.



GREETINGS FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Since our last report your Church Council is working on the following:

Our Vice-Chair of Council, Laurie Duncan, attended a workshop on the United Church

of Canada's Violence and Harassment Policy earlier this year. He and I are working on the available resources to create a comprehensive paper to summarize the lengthy policy for ease of use. A full copy of the policy is located in the Church Office.

Work continues on the input of membership data into the software program, Churchwatch, and we have been advised that the task of digitizing the historical roll is near completion. We look forward to hearing of the uses of the data from Chris Dickson, of the Christian Community Team, at a future meeting.

The Council has fixed dates for upcoming Council meetings in 2015. The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, February 15, 2015. Reports are due on or before Monday, January 5, 2015 at the Church Office.

Our ongoing challenge is meeting the budget and our Treasurer submitted a draft budget for 2015 at the November meeting. At the January meeting, the Council will approve a final budget for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Our Treasurer has challenged the Council to consider sponsoring a fundraiser in 2015. More on this challenge in the new year.

To rebuild Trinity's "Funds in Trust" to meet future needs of the Church, the Board of Trustees are working on a Legacy Giving Program which "will be helpful in effectively promoting and encouraging members and adherents to remember Trinity in their estate planning decisions".

This report will be included in your 2015 Annual Report package

At this time of year, the Nominating Committee consisting of Marguerite Cameron and myself sit down to look at the vacancies on the various teams including those created by

completion of their term in accordance with the Policies and Procedure Manual. If you have time, talent and/or desire to serve Trinity United Church on any of our teams in 2015, we invite you to speak with one of us.

I recently attended a Ministry and Personnel Workshop. This was held in our Four Rivers Presbytery at Elgin United and facilitated by Bay of Quinte Conference staff Mary Jane Hobden, M & P Chair, Heather Morrison, attended a similar workshop last year. She and I will be discussing necessary changes to the Policies and Procedure Manual in order to come into compliance with the United Church of Canada Manual, our ultimate authority.

Finally, on behalf of your Church Council I extend all best wishes and blessings for the coming Christmas season.

From under the Hat,
Jan Montgomery

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the Board of Trustees pass along their best wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas to all members of the congregation.

As of November 25, 2014 Funds in Trust has a positive Bank Balance of \$180,034.00.

Since the last Communicator report, there have been two (2) expenses totaling \$755.00 covered by Trust Funds for Christian Education: (a) Two Affirm Events held at Trinity and (b) sending three Trinity youths to the United Church Fall Youth Rally in Carleton Place.

Trustees have decided to engage the services of the investment Brokerage Firm (Nesbitt-Burns in Perth) to assist and guide us in

executing our investment mandate. Church Council was informed of this plan at the November 25, 2014 meeting. We hope to have the details of this initiative finalized before the end of 2014.

Work continues on updating the Legacy (Planned) Giving Program. Church Council endorsed the vision for the revitalized "Program" for Trinity at its meeting November 25, 2014. The plan is to have the governance and operating procedures approved at the January 25, 2015 meeting of Council. We hope to have details and resources of the Program ready for presentation at the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting in February.

As the end of 2014 approaches, please keep Trinity's "Funds Held in Trust" in your mind if you are considering your year-end charitable donations for 2014. While "Bequests" are the most common type of legacy gift, there are many types of planned gifts that you can consider. For information on making a contribution (either as a bequest or planned gift) please contact any member of the Board of Trustees, Bob Swan, Muriel Dillabough, Stewart Graham, Ron VanMeer and David Johnston, or the church office.

Respectfully submitted by
Bob Swan, Chairman,

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Many thanks to a caring congregation that has helped fund the many activities of Trinity United Church over the past year. Your weekly contributions, as well as those to

special appeals, continue to make my job easier. With a budget approaching a quarter of a million dollars, we have continued to finance the church in both local activities and help beyond our borders. As we come to the end of the year, we again face a considerable deficit, and I am sure that with a concerted effort we will be able to “end the year in the black”. We are now planning our 2015 budget and again we will monitor spending to be sure that we can meet our commitments. In the meantime I would welcome any suggestions you may have for further fundraising activities as well as prioritizing the expenditures and programs. You are the Church and we need your input both in contributions and ideas for the future. In the meantime, I wish you all the best in this festive season.



Arnel W. Pattemore,

Treasurer

Stewardship Report

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer. At Trinity we had the usual situation of more expenditures than receivables, and so we must do some catching up.

We are looking at getting a new front door with automatic opener.

Our media equipment needs to be replaced.

Roof repairs are being completed.

The forms are being completed to acquire a defibrillator through MP Scott Reid's office.

Arrangements are being made with Access Taxi for seniors to come to church by taxi, and then get a ride home by someone at church. Contact Barb Byam for details (phone # 283-1182).

Bob Swan is working on a Legacy Giving Program for Trinity and more information will be coming on this project.

Respectfully submitted by co-chairs,
Fred Haughton and John Murphy

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEAM

The Caring Task Group continues to visit people in retirement/nursing centres in town and surrounding communities. We also participate in the monthly worship services at these places, as well as individual visits to homes and the hospital.

With the help of the Children's Ministry, we are able to send handmade Christmas cards to our members who are unable to attend Trinity. Thank you Heidi and young people for your help.

We are always looking for people to join us as friendly visitors. Maybe you already visit, please consider letting us know who you visit regularly. We would like to ensure all those who require a visit receive one. Men are always welcome to be visitors.

This season, take a stroll through Victoria Park to enjoy the Christmas displays. We would like to thank everyone involved with this project for Trinity United Church, especially Earl Weir, Bud Fawcett and Millie O'Neal.

For people who would like to attend church but have no transportation, we have a solution. Access Taxi will pick up people at the retirement/nursing centres and at individual homes. These rides will be paid for with vouchers that have been purchased by Stewardship Committee. People who use a taxi will be driven home after the service by members of the church. We are looking for volunteers to help with the drives home - occasionally. At the centres, the important thing to remember is that only one phone call from the front desk is necessary at 9:30 a.m. Access Taxi: [613-283-1441](tel:613-283-1441)

We are very thankful for your donations to the Cal Pipil Youth Centre in El Salvador. Because of your thoughtfulness, we will have doubled our goal by the end of December. Thank you for helping to promote a safe place to learn and socialize.



WOODCHIPS # 2

Cal Pipil, what a great story! Cal Pipil is a Baptist youth initiative in San Salvador, El Salvador. The parent church is a congregation which I served in the 1980s, and it is a vital connection for the United Church of Canada in Central America. In the midst of a wealth of great projects, they have recently embarked on a passionate mission to address youth issues in their local community. Gang violence, joblessness, poverty and political corruption are enormous issues which directly impact the young people of San Salvador. Cal Pipil is a small, vital youth ministry attempting to create positive opportunities for youth in this setting. A number of people from Bay of Quinte have visited Cal Pipil; from our own congregation - Cynthia Sirrett, Maude Woods and myself.

Over the past month, we have engaged in a fundraising effort to support this impressive grass-

roots ministry. I am so pleased to say that to date we have raised \$1350 for Cal Pipil, and that number continues to grow. It is a worthy project with great oversight from Emanuel Baptist Church. I am so impressed that we have seen fit to support it so substantially. Other congregations in our Conference are also raising Cal Pipil funds, and I look forward to sharing with a Conference total in the New Year. Please search out 'Cal Pipil' on Facebook...the text is in Spanish but the pictures tell the whole story anyhow - hope in desperate times.



MEMBERSHIP & WELCOMING

The first phase of updating the Membership list been completed. That required going through all the names the office had on the membership list. We divided those we could into categories e.g. Members, Non-members, Member-Non-Resident, Visitor, etc. Many were unfamiliar to us. We will rely on others for information on them.

We have been working most Friday mornings to complete this information.

Now that these lists are made, we can proceed to update and add required data to each category. To do this, we will consult with

with others for information, and ask those from whom we need more information to complete a questionnaire. Churchwatch has a great many options for information on individuals. We would also like to see information added to indicate the skills, experience and talents so we know what human resources Trinity has as well as any committee or groups they are involved with.

Churchwatch will also remind us when baptized children will be of confirmation age, who has a birthday etc. Churchwatch has a hymn book, a bible and many other features online that are currently not being used.

Once this information is all updated, the Church will benefit in many ways. We will clearly know who is a member so when the church is required to submit money for each member to Presbytery, we will be paying the correct amount. We will not be paying for those who are no longer members, those who want to remain members but no longer live here, those who have transferred etc. We will also have the information regarding the areas mentioned above.

Eva Dryden & Pat Hull, who have been in charge of getting Sunday greeters, will be retiring from this position as of the end of the year. Eva and Pat wish to thank all those who have so graciously helped them when asked.

Respectfully
submitted

Chris Dickson
&
Pat Hull



REPORT FROM AFFIRM

The Bay of Quinte Conference of the United Church of Canada voted to become an Affirming Ministry of the United Church at the Conference Annual Meeting in 2013. The youth from Conference last year asked us why we weren't an Affirming Ministry. We listened and at the last congregational meeting we voted overwhelmingly in favour of entering a time of education and discernment to explore what being an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada means, in general, and what that might mean for us. A notice was put in the bulletin, and an Ad Hoc group was formed. We serve as part of this congregation to provide educational and discernment opportunities so that we may understand all the issues under the Affirming Ministries umbrella. **Some of the topics under that umbrella deal with race, gender, ageism, ability, and specifically sexual orientation meaning gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender.** That is all we have agreed to as a congregation. We will move forward gently with a variety of opportunities.

The group will continue to provide opportunities for education and discernment such as our speaker series with the Rev. Dr. George Hermanson and our bible study using *Lectio Divina*. We will continue to put announcements in the bulletin that fall under the Affirm umbrella and have written resources available for you. If there is any other material you would like to explore, please get in touch with any member of the group: Chris Dickson, Barb Ellis, Sue Newport, Linda & Ron Stronski. We will be hosting a pot-luck

lunch on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015 followed by a short DVD and time for discussion and friendship.

We have this opportunity, and we shouldn't let our uncertainty and our fears paralyze and divide us. Remember the words Jesus said, "I will not abandon you, my love is greater than your fear," those words will help us move forward as Christians living in the 21st century to love God with all of our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Respectfully
Norma Wrightly

WOODCHIPS # 3

It was a pleasure to welcome one of the more astute local theologians to explore issues of biblical authority, Christian morality, sexuality and ethics. That is no small order. Rev. Dr. George Hermanson was the right person to lead us through two evenings on these and other topics. He is a deep thinker, managing to engage us intellectually while offering some very practical advice on how to address current topics, including that of sexuality in all its shapes and sizes. The group of 10-15 people responded with comments and questions, inviting George to help us expand our conversation on inclusivity, welcoming strong biblical insights vis-à-vis the realm of ethics and morality. I was grateful that the Affirm Team hosted this evening, and was pleasantly surprised by the warmth and ease with which people entered into a conversation that can be quite a challenge. I look forward to attending further educational events hosted by our Affirm Team in 2015.



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP REPORT

Three youths attended the Youth Fall Retreat in Carleton Place. Their registration fees were paid through funds held in trust.

Country Blend at end of October was a wonderful evening which resulted in a profit of \$1620.70 adding to the general funds of Trinity.

The communion service of December 21 was conducted by Rev. Tom Walton. He is a retired minister living in Seeley Bay. He preached at Trinity this summer when our guest minister suddenly took sick, and we were impressed with his service.

Norrma Wrightly will serve as pulpit supply on December 28.

November 4 was the date of the services held at Van Horne, Broadview and Willowdale Seniors Residences, all well attended. Our young people will be making Christmas cards again for the seniors of these residences or shut-ins at their homes.

The Remembrance Service was a solemn, meaningful service added to by the presence of the local Legion and participation of the children.

Upcoming events include:

*Christmas pageant Dec. 7th combined with Angel Gift Sunday (formerly White Gift)

*Christmas Cantata presented by the Senior Choir and friends December 13 @ 7pm

*A workshop with John Bell on February 27- 28, 2015 at Kanata United Church

Respectfully submitted by

Shelley Doucette

Christmas Cantata

“Glorious Night of Miracles” by John Peterson

Presented by

Trinity Senior Choir and Friends

Sat. Dec 13 at 7:00 p.m.

(doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

. YOUTH REPORT

On behalf of the youth, I would like to thank Trinity U.C. for helping the youth attend the Bay of Quinte Conference Fall Youth Retreat.

This event was held on November 7-9 at Zion-Memorial U.C., Carleton Place.

About 44 youth from across the Conference were in attendance. A special thanks to Karen Valley from the host church for

her dedication and leadership.

I joined the youth for Sunday morning worship and was very impressed with the service they prepared and led for Remembrance Day Sunday.

We can be very proud of our young people and the manner in which they represent Trinity. Sierra Peskett has been chosen as a youth representative to General Council 2015 —way to go Sierra!

“The youth Fall Retreat this year was awesome. I had lots of fun seeing my friends from last year and meeting new friends. This year we learned about chaplaincy and what chaplains do. I hope I will be able to go again next year.” Owen

“The Fall Youth Retreat was so fun! I got to make lots of new friends and visit old ones. For the whole weekend I was surrounded by awesome, positive people.” Sierra

Please watch for notices via email, Facebook and the Church bulletin for upcoming youth events.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma

UCW REPORT

“To united women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.” *UCW Purpose*

Church attendance may be dropping, but one would never know it by the enthusiastic group of UCW members who attended the Bay of Quinte Conference UCW Mid-Week event. This was a full day of spiritual wellness (as the day's theme stated) from the hymn-sing to the "Food Guide for the Spirit" as it was presented by the Rev. Wendy MacLean. Lots of laughter, thought provoking questions, friends to catch-up with, and of course wonderful food to share with other UCW members.

Trinity's UCW hosted one of the most beautiful bazaars held in the area this year. The Bazaar committee sought help from a variety of folks to ensure the hall looked dazzling. Over 125 people were served lunch—a record crowd. Folks went away happy with full tummies to help fortify them for further shopping, which they did. This was definitely the best bazaar held in many years and I would like to thank the Committee, all those who helped, and/ or contributed, and to the patrons who so generously supported this event.

We continue to look at ways to educate ourselves what Affirming Ministries might mean for us as a UCW. Many of the educational opportunities have been presented by the Conference UCW, and we are thankful to be able to avail ourselves of their expertise. Our Christmas Potluck and program will have taken place by the time you are reading this. Once again women from the Elmsley/ Lombardy Pastoral Charge and St. Paul's, Perth will join with us for this annual event. All women are welcome to attend—so mark it on your calendar for next year if you

missed this one..

Our units continue to grow, which is encouraging. The New Year will see a change in leadership, as Linda Stronski and I are both stepping down from our leadership positions as co-chairs of the local UCW. Linda will be installed as the President of the Four Rivers Presbyterial UCW next year, and we not only wish her well, but also pledge our support. Personally, I can say that this position has provided me with a wealth of opportunities that I would never have had otherwise. I encourage anyone wishing chances to learn, grow, and lead that this is an excellent opportunity for you in whatever position you might choose to help with..

Nationally, the NUCW has decided on a five year initiative to help end Child Poverty in Canada. Locally, we will continue to seek justice and love kindness as we study this issue.

Respectfully
Norma Wrightly
Linda Stronski

Co-chairs, UCW Trinity, Smiths Falls

The logo for the Christmas Bazaar features the word "Christmas" in a large, decorative font where the letters are filled with various Christmas symbols like stars, snowflakes, and trees. Below it, the word "Bazaar" is written in a similar, slightly less decorative font. A small holly leaf with a red berry is positioned between the two words.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

Men's breakfast club meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 am in the Goodlife Bristro on 5 Main St. East. Come and join us for good food and fellowship. We are usually done around 9:15 a.m. and love to have more people join us.



We are involved with the Breakfast Program for Duncan J Schouar School every Wednesday morning together with some ladies from Trinity. One needs to be there from about 8:15 to 9:45 am. If you are interested in being a participant please contact Barry Mapplebeck or Cynthia Sirett.

WOODCHIPS #4

Politics and Faith are deeply connected. They are both arenas where human beings struggle with the blessings, and occasional curses, of living in community. We draw deep inspiration from the devoted service of political leaders, and many politicians speak of faith as an inspiration for their work as well. We have been blessed as a community to have the leadership of Dennis Staples, as long-time mayor and formerly councillor, for almost thirty years. As a member of our congregation, it is our privilege to give thanks in worship for his work and commitment as he steps away from public office this year. As part of our service on Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 we will be taking time to acknowledge all he has done in our midst in this elected capacity. It is also meant to be a reminder of the call to service and community work that is extended to all people of faith, inspiring us to consider public service as a true vocation. While aware of many who have served, and continue to serve, we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Dennis as a citizen, neighbour, friend... and also as a member of our United Church here in Smiths Falls. Councillor Lorraine Allen (also part of our congregation) will help shape this tribute on the 21st. Join us for this occasion!



WOODCHIPS #5

Here comes Christmas. So familiar! So new! John Wanless and I have been playing a tune called Noel Nouvelet a lot this season. It is from 15th Century France, and we play it as a ballad, a bit of a Russian dance tune, a jazz riff, and as an elegy. This musical pot-pourri reflects the range of meaning and emotions attached to Christmas. The season, and our rendition of that tune, is a strange amalgam of heritage and familiarity as well as innovation and chaos. I find it helpful to approach Christmas with a fresh energy through this Noel Nouvelet, often translated as “Sing a New Song of Christmas”.

We will, congregationally, find ways to do all of this as these dark, December days unfold. I can't wait.

Here is the list of Advent and Christmas events in the coming days. Please do join us for all of some of these occasions



Advent / Christmas Service Schedule

Dec 7	Second Sunday of Advent	Christmas Pageant and Angels Gift Service 10:30
Dec 13	Third Sunday of Advent	Early Communion Service 9:00 a.m. “Safe Now in God’s Hand” Service 10:30 a.m.
Dec.21	Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:30 a.m.	
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Services:	Children’s Service, 6:00 pm Family Service, 7:30 pm Communion Service, 11:00 pm
Dec. 28 ship	First Sunday after Christmas, 10:30 a.m.	Norma Wrightly leading wor-

Ministry Team

The Members and Adherents of Trinity United Church

The Reverend Peter C. Woods, M. Div.

Mr. John Wanless, Organist & Choir Director

Ms. Gwenda Kinch, Church Secretary

Mr. Klaas Van Der Meer, Custodian

Trinity's Office Hours

Please take note of Trinity's office hours.

They are as follows:

Monday thru Thursday

9:00am to 12:00noon.

Phone: 613-283-4444



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH

Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada