

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

Smiths Falls, Ontario

Christmas 2012

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.**



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





Throughout The Communicator, look for "WoodChips" taking the place of the Minister's Message.

WoodChip #1

STAY (Successful Transitional Avenues for Youth) is the name for the Lanark County organization we are working with to alleviate youth homelessness in our area. Executive director, Ann Emon, has spoken to our congregation several times, and the Church Council has been deeply involved in this local initiative to start a 'warming centre' at Trinity in January of 2013. The pieces are all coming together, and we are looking forward to being part of this community response to a true local crisis. It is a great opportunity for service and leads us into a deeper relationship with some of the most 'at-risk' people in our town. We need prayers and good wishes, and we also need a few supplies (bedding and soap to name a couple). There are opportunities for volunteering....good news for the night-hawks in our congregation! Along the way, we will learn what it means to be young and homeless in our town...a disturbing reality. What better way to deepen our understanding of Jesus' fragile and itinerant life as a young man in Galilee long ago. Keep an eye out for further announcements regarding all of this!

GREETINGS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Your Church Council has some updates to share with you: The Implementation Team who spent many hours of time and labour leading up to and during our major renovation are now recognized in a plaque accompanying the congregational Recognition Wall hanging in the church hall. This plaque will now form part of an historical record of these dedicated individuals under the leadership of Project Manager, Tom Foulkes. Many thanks to Mark White for creating both the Recognition Wall and its sister plaque. We are grateful for Mark's talent.

The Council continues to review the Trinity Policy & Procedures Manual and to include those policies set out by the United Church of Canada from time to time.

As the Council looks to 2013 there is some concern as to our financial position. Simply put, our expenses exceed our revenue. Our Treasurer, Larry Allan and the Stewardship Team are examining all avenues for cost-saving measures. Each team is examining their budgets for 2013 with a view to minimizing expenses. Ideally, it is revenue that needs to increase. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Israel Trip *continued*

We did enjoy the typical tourist things, such as shopping, floating in the Dead Sea, and taking a short ride on the back of a camel. This article really doesn't provide enough space to talk about our religious and spiritual experiences. While Israel's Christian Holy sites are very busy attractions, we, for the most part, were able to experience the Holy, even amidst the chatter and crowds. Our guide was astute enough to arrange our timetable to afford quieter times where possible.

We were very appreciative of all the prayers for our safety while we were away, but in all honesty, we never felt unsafe; uncomfortable, yes, but never unsafe. Our discomfort was due to the difficult political, religious and geographic realities that exist in Israel today, as Brenda eloquently put it, "It is a fragile peace". We hope to present our trip in the new year once we have organized our photos and taken the time to digest all that we have seen, heard, and experienced.

Brenda Swan & Norma Wrightly

Advent / Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday, December 16th 10:30 a.m.

"Through Tears to Joy" A candle lighting service to remember loved ones and to acknowledge the blue times over the season.

Friday, December 21st 7:00 p.m.

Senior Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 23rd 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Pageant A multi-generational service celebrating the Christmas story through music and drama.

Monday, December 24th

6:00 p.m. Children's Service

7:30 p.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Communion Service



Israel trip



From October 10-25 Brenda Swan and I followed, if haphazardly, in the footsteps of Jesus, on a guided tour of Israel.

We travelled with Rostad Tours and our Canadian tour leaders were a United Church minister, Richard Hall and his wife Barbara. Richard helped co-ordinate our days with our local guide, told a daily joke-some were real groaners and led us in meaningful site-related worship. Barbara made sure that it all happened and took photos. The local tour company, Shepherd Tours, provided a bus, driver, and a local guide. Our driver,

Taleb Al-Laloti, drove with expertise in all situations: traffic jams, check points, windy and twisty roads, narrow alleyways, and busy market streets on market day. He did it all with courtesy and finesse and he made us laugh. Basem Sabat, our guide was Palestinian Christian and his biblical knowledge and theology should earn him the title the Reverend and an honorary doctorate in theology. These people helped to make our trip meaningful.

We stayed in Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Tiberias, Jericho, and Jerusalem. From these points we traveled to the various sites where Jesus traveled and stayed, healed and taught, was born, died, and rose again. We went to various Roman ruins, ancient Jewish and Moslem holy sites including Mount Hebron, the Tomb of the Patriarchs where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca and Jacob and Leah are buried, and the Dome of the Rock.

The weather was very hot and Basam told us that in the area of Jericho the weather was 10° hotter than it usually was at this time of year. We didn't realise it would be so humid with desert surrounding this oasis. The Jordan River and the Dead Sea cause this humidity that even reaches the top of Masada and Qumran that are desert elevations in the wilderness.

GREETINGS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Continued

The Council has partnered with an organization, Successful Transitional Avenues for Youth (STAY), to offer our gym space for free as a "warming centre" for homeless youth for three days a week during the winter months. A staff person from STAY along with two trained volunteers will oversee the clients. A Memo of Understanding setting out the responsibilities of STAY and Trinity will be in place by opening of the centre. For more information about STAY visit www.stay-lanark.com. There is a significant need for emergency housing for youth in Lanark County and we are excited to be partnering with the Town of Smiths Falls and the community on this initiative.

In 2013, Rev. Woods announced that he will be taking a three month sabbatical starting in September. The Council supports his decision and accordingly a request to Presbytery has been made for their approval.

Church Council meets five times a year. The meetings commence at 7:00 p.m. and are open to anyone who would like to attend. In 2013 our meeting dates will be Tuesday, February 5, March 26, June 18, September 24 and November 26. If you have

GREETINGS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Continued

an interest in serving your church on any of our teams, attending a Council meeting would be an opportunity to see how the business of the church is accomplished.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be Tuesday, February 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

A Nominating Task Group will be looking at upcoming 2013 vacancies on each team. Want to get involved? Contact Nominating Chair: Bob Swan at business@footballcanada.com or see me at Church. I will have my hat on!

Joy to the World – have a blessed Christmas.

Jan Montgomery
Council Chair



WoodChip #2

Our Children's Ministry is a vital part of who we are. It is also something we have been struggling to keep alive for some time. As we have gone through some rough patches, relying on two incredible individuals to shoulder the load, we are now looking at a bit of a renewal. AWESOME!!!! A few younger families are looking seriously at taking leadership on a Sunday morning, making this time an important part of their faith journey as a family. With the ongoing leadership of Teresa Bisailon we are thrilled to have the Peskett family also taking a major role. Others have suggested they may step forward. We are still lacking a person to organize resources for the various leaders....a job that could be done at some time apart from Sunday morning. Any takers? You would be most welcomed!

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

December 23rd at 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

We are putting together a wonderful Christmas Pageant this year....with a few startling surprises built-in. Don't miss our all-ages Sunday morning spectacular on

Sound and Camera Crews



Two very important components of weekly worship services are the sound system and video equipment. The importance of good sound is obvious. Taping the service each week so that the services can be aired on Cogeco is a huge form of outreach. This allows those who can no longer attend church, the opportunity to stay connected.

Trinity has been very fortunate to have two dedicated people manning both systems, Klaas Van der Meer and Brandon Perry for many years. *It is now time to find some replacements for these very important positions.*

Due to the time commitment, it would be great to have a few teams of two put together to look after the sound system and run the camera each week. Teams could include husbands and wives, grandparents and grandchildren, friends, pew buddies, or youth looking for volunteer hours. Full training is available. To say *"We can do that"*, please contact the Church Office.

Karen White, Spiritual Leadership

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

The medals were presented to Doug Kilpatrick and Ron Stronski by Scott Reid, MP and Randy Hillier MPP, for the ridings of Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Ad-dington in the Perth Civitan Hall on the afternoon of November 16th, 2012.

From over 120 nominees in the riding , 42 recipients were selected by an evaluation committee, of whom 9 were from Smiths Falls. The award criteria were fairly broad and Mr. Reid said " The Diamond Jubilee Medal ought to honour those Canadians whose own lives have paralleled Her Majesty's personal history of giving back to the community".

On receiving notice of the award, Doug Kilpatrick said his first reaction was surprise because he could immediately think of a half-dozen persons in Smiths Falls who are at least equally deserving. He said he was certain he met at least one criterion, that of being alive when QE II ascended the Throne. Doug also spoke of the honour he felt in being in the company of so many highly deserving recipients. He's also honoured to be a recipient with military Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers. From his years in the Regular Army, he knows that these are the people who make the Forces "tick".

Doug thinks that there should be an official way of sharing the award with "better halves".

Ron Stronski commented that he was overwhelmed and proud to accept this award. Ron is a monarchist of Polish-Ukrainian descent. He was nominated as being the Town Council's conscience and instigating the Sports Hall of Fame. Over the years Ron has been on many fund raising committees and is noted for his silent auctions. Ron also has sat on many boards with the current ones being Crime Stoppers and the Drug Strategy and is also a Mason & a Shriner and a clown. He is often called to answer questions on the history of the town and surrounding areas.

Congratulations, Doug and Ron.



WoodChip #6

It's important to know that our Good Samaritan Fund works hard over the Christmas season. There are a few families whom we are deeply privileged to help as they face a struggle this year. We also work with good friends in other agencies, including local school officials and the Salvation Army, to extend a little extra cheer to individuals and families struggling right now. Thanks so much for your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

It has been a busy year at Trinity. Wind damage to the roof in March was finally repaired, with a new roof in October. An opportunity to replace our organ came up in the summer, thanks to our music director, John Wanless. Thanks to extra efforts by several members it has been paid off. We are working on the 2013 budget, while trying to reach the budget requirements for 2012. We are short by approximately \$18,000. Needless to say we are hoping for a great Christmas present.

The Stewardship Committee needs more members. We meet on the second Wednesday, at 7PM for less than two hours. Anyone interested in more information, please call myself) (283-1843) or Barb Byam.

Our Grocery Card program needs more participants as it is a great way to fund the church without costing you anything. The grocery stores and Canadian Tire sell us cards at a discount so that the church makes from 3 to 5 % on each card, and you get full value for the card. Give some cards as Christmas gifts. GREAT IDEA !

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fred Haughton
Chairman Stewardship Committee.

Sacred Spaces and Yoga (check with one of the woodchips)

Advent Yoga at Trinity

Hosted by the Spiritual Leadership Team. Relax and refresh for the Christmas season. Three sessions will take place:

Mondays Nov. 26th, Dec. 3rd and Dec. 10th, from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Cost per class is \$10.00 with all proceeds going to the Good Samaritan Fund. Classes led by Carolyn Sutherland of Orange Tree Yoga.

All levels and experience are welcome!



If you miss out on Advent Yoga, go ahead and make that New Years resolution. Spiritual Leadership will be offering more sessions in January. The chapel area of the sanctuary is the perfect spot to embrace yoga and utilize its ability to help with general health, stress relief, mindfulness and maybe even get you touching those toes once again. **Watch the bulletin for new dates and times.**



WoodChip #3

Christmas remains one of my favourite times of year in the life of our congregation. We have fun and we share hospitality. We take the time for a party or two. We remind each other that amidst the festivities there are some very bittersweet moments. I assure you that Christmas at Trinity this year allows us to bring our joy and hope to church, but also make room for our grief and confusion. Come and be part of the Christmas journey as it begins on December 2nd and lingers into the early weeks of January. Together we can discern the Christmas spirit in our midst.

The New Baldwin Organ

Since its' arrival in September, John Wanless has been belting out some pretty, sweet tunes on the new Baldwin organ. Those tunes will be even sweeter now thanks to the generous donations from Trinity's congregation and friends. All of the keys, stops and pedals have been adopted in record time. The goal of \$10,000.00 has been reached.

THANK YOU!



WoodChip #4

Lots happening in December at Trinity. I am really looking forward to our service on Sunday, December 16th- "From Tears to Joy". All the services on Christmas evening are in the works already....with John Wanless and the choir planning some real highlights.

Don't forget the Choir's Christmas Concert on Friday, December 21st as well.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has not received a Bequest or other financial contribution to-date for this year 2012, we would ask that you keep Trinity United Church in your thoughts. We have had an inquiry of purchase on the Bell Avenue property. This was discussed at our Board of Trustees meeting held in September and the outcome was presented at the September 25th Council meeting. The Board of Trustees did not accept the offer of \$225,000 for the property.

Reasoning:

The equity and borrowing power, if in need, is a priority at financial institutions.

We have a very high rating at the Bank of Nova Scotia and have the best percentage available on our investments.

Our financial stability as a Church congregation is secure with keeping the property.

A motion was made that the property value be looked at in 2014.

Thank you,
Dick Donaldson,
Chairman, Board of Trustees



WoodChip #5

Welcome

Did you know that we are a welcoming congregation?

We will be highlighting the gift and the challenge of welcoming at a great evening in

January. It is a chance to welcome anyone who is 'new' to Smiths Falls....however we define 'new'. Perhaps someone has moved here in the past five years and is now interested in getting a little more involved in the community. Perhaps someone has moved here from Asia or Latin America and is trying to make a home in a very different, and often freezing, place. We love to think that we are welcoming...so we are throwing a party for all the 'newcomers' in town. A lovely dinner will be served by the UCW at Trinity on Sunday, January 27th. It'll be a chance to invite a neighbour who is new to town...and also extend a gesture of friendship to people who may be experiencing their first Canadian winter. If you - in any way- fall into this category of 'new'....COME AND JOIN US! If not, come and help us as we host this evening in conjunction with the Local Immigration Project and the Welcome Wagon.

WoodChip #5 *continued*

Doors will open at 4 p.m., with entertainment from 4:30 to 5 p.m. and dinner at 5:15 p.m. Dinner will consist of a traditional Canadian beef stew.

RSVP by Monday, January 14 by calling Peter Au at 613-284-8338_ or Marguerite Cameron at 613-283-7438 or email mcameron99@cogeco.ca



UCW Report

Our year is winding down with lots of memories of the year in celebration of our 50th Anniversary. We started with a potluck lunch and ended with a potluck dinner. In between there has been lots of work, fellowship and fun. Ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us at any time. The meeting times are in the bulletin and you are welcome to come to any meeting that suits your schedule.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Stronski, President