

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

Smiths Falls, Ontario

March 2010



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

Trinity's Office Hours

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

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

www.trinityunitedsf.ca



www.trinityunitedsf.ca

Minister's Message

Memphis, Van Gogh and Easter

Recently in Memphis, I met a preacher named Brooks Ramsey who told us three things: everything changes, everything is connected, pay attention. I returned from Memphis with anecdotes and musical memories from that great city on the Mississippi River (birthplace of r&b, country, soul and rock'n'roll music), and some of the best BBQ sauce ever! But it is that brief summary of our existential reality, and Ramsey's invitation/challenge/throwdown to "pay attention" that helps me find focus for ministry back home. Upon reflection it led me back to Vincent Van Gogh who once said – "I am trying to get at something utterly heart-broken." It also leads me back to the Easter theme of God's endlessly resurrecting power in a broken world.

Everything changes: we age, we evolve, we fail and succeed, we become frail, we scar, we become wise, hearts break and hopes are frayed, we discover simple joys and pleasures overlooked in our younger days, we pause. Changes.

Everything is connected: a gospel church on the streets of Memphis, a pub in downtown Smiths Falls, another empty factory in Eastern Ontario, your sons and daughters flung out across the country, our wonderful denominational experiment called the United Church of Canada, every song sung in church, every song on the radio. Connections.

Pay attention. Live with a growing awareness of the changes and connections. Break free from the scandalous, and false, categories of sacred and secular. There is nothing that is beyond the sacred. Observe of all of this. Observe your place within all of this. Let all of this have a claim on your heart and mind. It won't be easy, but it will be true.

Trouble often happens when people begin to awaken to the life all around them. The good news of Jesus', which was all about paying attention, created awkward situations and often heightened conflict amongst those closest to him. The truth does set you free, but freedom comes with a cost. Paying attention is the stance of the faithful witness, and it sets the stage for profound illumination in every one of our lives. It is the way of the disciple.

One of the great heroes of theology and spirituality is Vincent Van Gogh. His way of paying attention to the connections and changes was through paint and canvas. His artistic visions, revealed in his collected letters, were fueled by a spiritual insight which always began with paying attention. On a starry night, in the midst a Fall harvest, at the door of a humble cottage, outside of a country church, God's limitless energy was making itself felt once more. Van Gogh simply recorded the fantastic resurrecting power of God as he paid attention to life all around him. His revelations are true invitations to join into the artistic spirit of God bursting all boundaries.

Van Gogh says:
"We who try our best to live, why do we not live more?"

"I love so much, so very much, the effect of yellow leaves against green trunks. This is not a thing that I have sought, but it has come across my path and I have seized it."

"So there is every moment something that moves one intensely."

"The flying birds, the smoking chimneys, and that figure loitering in the yard - if we do not learn from this, then from what shall we learn?"

Excerpted by Annie Dillard, "Poems"

2010 Trinity Calendar of Events

March	Meat Pies by Trinity Cooks Individual beef pies at a cost of 2/\$5 or 6/\$12 Pies are available on Sunday after worship in the Church Hall.
Mar 27 th	Mom to Mom Sale 8-11 in the Church Hall. Buy or sell baby's and children's clothing, equipment, toys, books and maternity wear. New to You Sale 8-11 in the Gymnasium. Gently used adult clothing for sale.
Mar 28 th	Palm Sunday
Mar 28 th	Palm Sunday Brunch
Apr 1 st	Maundy Thursday Worship/Pot Luck
Apr 2 nd	Good Friday - Westminster and Trinity join in Worship at Trinity
Apr 2 nd	Good Friday Procession beginning at St. Francis de Sales, ending at St. John's Anglican
Apr 4 th	Easter Sunday
Apr 21 st	UCW General Meeting
Apr 24 th	Variety Night
Apr 25 th	Camping Sunday
Apr 25 th	The Mad Hatters Tea Party following Worship with the Youth Group
Apr 30 th	Bake Sale at County Fair Mall
May 2 nd	Trinity's 178 th Anniversary.; Guest speaker: Rev. Joe Ramsay Coffee Time after Worship
May 2 nd	Ham & Bean Supper
May 9 th	Mother's Day - Baptism Service
May 12 th	Pastoral Care Luncheon
Jun 5 th	Ladies Day Out (Lunch at Manhattan)
Jun 6 th	85 th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada
Jun 20 th	Father's Day
Jun 23 rd	Strawberry Social (approx date)
Sept 13-23	Apple Pies by Trinity Cooks
Sept 18 th	Mom to Mom Sale
Sept 21 st	Peal for Peace
Sept 26 th	Women's Sunday
Oct 10 th	Thanksgiving
Oct 20 th	UCW General Meeting (Celebration of the Least Coin)
Nov 6 th	Candy Cane Bazaar
Nov 11 th	Remembrance Day
Nov 14 th	Great Canadian Coffee Part
Nov 17 th	UCW General Meeting
Dec 9 th	UCW Christmas Pot Luck
Dec 10 th	Bake Sale at the County Fair Mall

Church Camp For Women

There are two opportunities for women to have a camping experience this summer.

1. Quin Mo Lac is offering a **Women's Rejuvenation Camp** in August. There is time for reflection, daily devotions, swimming, rock wall climbing and much more. Talk to Sue Newport or Cynthia Sirett about their experience in 2009.

2010 Women's Rejuvenation Dates:

August 10 - August 14 (Tuesday-Saturday)

Arrival Time: 4 pm-5 pm

Departure Time: 10:30 am

Registration Fee: Full Payment Before

May 1st, 2010 - \$220

Payment After April 30th, 2010 - \$230

(Prices Include Tax & Food Tuck)

Email: bevqough@bell.net or visit the camp web site www.campqml.org for more information and registration forms.

2. September 10, 11, 12 the Conference UCW holds a camping weekend at Quin Mo Lac. W.O.W. = Women of Worship is the theme for 2010. This year our very own Renfrew Presbyterial is the organizing body; several of our UCW members have volunteered to be on the organizing committee. Cost for the weekend is \$100.00. Registration forms come out shortly after April and there are limited spaces available, so watch for announcements. Talk to Brenda Swan, Elva Corless, Sharon O'Neill or any of the other women who have gone to camp.

Norma Wrightly



John R. Wanless (Organist and Choir Director) Trinity United Church

John was born in New Liskeard, Ontario. John is a "PK" kid, the son of the late Rev. T. Gordon and Janet Wanless. John started taking Piano lessons at the age of five (5), and all of his teachers were Church Musicians. His first encounter at playing in church was during the offertory at the age of nine (9) at Central United Church in Barrie, Ontario. John took on his first position as a Church Organist and Choir Director at the age of seventeen (17).

The Churches John has served at are:

St. John's United Church Belwood, Ontario
1962 – 1968

Knox United Church Caledon, Ontario
1969 – 1977

Knox Presbyterian Church Grand Valley,
Ontario
1977 – 1983

Westminster Presbyterian Smiths Falls, Ontario
1983 – 1995

St. James Anglican Carleton Place, Ontario
1998 – 2001

St. John's United Church Kemptville, Ontario
2002 – 2003 (Interim)

Trinity United Smiths Falls, Ontario
2003 – 2004 (Interim)

Trinity United Smiths Falls, Ontario
2004 –

John and Fran live in Smiths Falls and have three (3) married daughters, Jodi, Terri and Nicole and have four (4) Granddaughters and one (1) Grandson.

Men's Breakfast Club Report

We had 15 men at the last Breakfast, where it was decided we will focus our efforts on an Easter Morning Breakfast. Bob Wrightly is in charge and will serve as chief cook. This means there will not be a Ladies Appreciation Night this April. However, some of us will endeavour to keep the ladies entertained at the Variety Night in April.

Van Gogh revealed what he saw through the vividness of his paintings, while living an obscure and impoverished life. He saw himself as a disciple challenged to be true to his heart-breaking insights. Ramsey has given us a simple summary, rooted in Buddhist and Christian meditation, suggesting that we are all called into a changeable and connection-filled universe (in which we are already living). Our singular challenge is to always be paying attention. We awaken to the post-resurrection world where we are reminded - with force and vitality: everything changes, everything is connected, pay attention. With that simple advice, we will never be the same.

Peace,
Rev. Peter Woods

Update From The Treasurer

Yes We Did!

At the end of 2009 the General Fund showed a modest surplus, thanks to the support of members of the congregation and organizations within the church. We can all take pleasure in knowing that once again the church was able to count on you.

Now we face 2010 knowing that it will be another challenging year. I am confident that again Trinity will end the year in a favourable financial position. As well as your regular contributions, I urge you to support upcoming fundraising efforts including the sale of meat pies and, in May, of geraniums. As well, please consider participating in the Gift Card Program that helps the church without any net cost to you.

And so I invite you to join us in "Growing Ahead Together".

Arnel W. Pattemore, Treasurer

Implementation Team

As you know the foundations, main entrance, lift/elevator, Church/Sunday School Hall, Kitchen (2), Bathrooms (4), Emergency Staircase - front hall to exit and several other items have been completed.

From the Structural Condition report, Windows, Roof, and Brick re-pointing were all identified as priority items. Two other items have been added to the list – Heating System and Sanctuary Ceiling.

Your Property/Implementation team has spent countless hours in Jan. and Feb. of this year obtaining information, using Internet, reading/studying, discussing with suppliers, contractors, manufacturers and builders/consultants to develop an approach to these challenges, and to obtain cost estimates. A report outlining our findings and recommendations was prepared as an addendum to the Application to The United Church Of Canada for funding.

This process was adopted at the Annual General meeting on February 28th, and the application was submitted. The cost estimates to carry out the above work will be \$180,000 plus or minus 15%. One donation of \$12,000 has been received. Another donation of \$2,500 to improve the curb appeal has been made directly to the Town. If the UCC approves our application, we have to pay them back over time. In any case, we will have to borrow monies to meet these high priority needs. As indicated we need to raise another \$90,000.

Implementation Team

Tom Foulkes
Chair,

Barry Mapplebeck
Vice Chair

Church Renovation 2009 By Ed O'Neill

I wrote a Poem about our Church
And all the work we've done
And all the Volunteers we had
"This Poem is all in fun!"

So please don't take it serious
We're all friends, in this place
If you misread my intentions
I'll end up with a "red face"

So, here it is for what it's worth
I thank you for your time
I'll read it as I wrote it
And I hope my verses rhyme

It started with "some tearing down"
The walls "just had to go"
And where we went from that point on
We really didn't know

I wish I knew "just what to do"
My mind is just not clear
I may just put my tools away
And have myself a beer

"You can't do this", "You can't do that"
The Inspector isn't clear
So, why not put my tools away
And have "another beer"

We tried our best to do it right
It may not suit "your" taste
But when you add the dollars up
There's "not a lot of waste"

We thank the U.C.W.
For all the work they've done
They kept us fed and watered
That's why I think they're Number One!

They didn't only "feed us well"
They insulated too!
And stapled up the vapour barrier
We "owe a lot" to you!

"Big Tom" was on us every day
He told us what to do

You couldn't take a measurement
"Unless he saw it too!"

He's tough-he's mean-he's just the Boss!
He really didn't care —
"The job gets done MY WAY" he said
So volunteers "Beware!"

We can't forget our good friend "Don"
He never asked for pay
He just knew when the job was done
He'd get his praise "some day"

We thank the men from "Cornerstone"
"Tim-The-Tool-Man" and his crew
He donated time and money
For things they needn't do

I can't believe how "Great" they are!!
At helping with our cause
Their time and talent worth much more!
I think—"He's Santa Claus!!"

I'm glad I was a part of this
I've made so many friends
I'd do it all again "next year"
This project "never ends"

Our major work is almost done
Out "pay cheque" hasn't come
We go "on strike" tomorrow
The "first round" we have won!!

But when it's "finally finished"
And our work is mostly done
We "raise our hands" and "thank the Lord"
I think we've "finally won!"

And "Scott" from Rideau Lumber'
— I just found out today!
Has donated many products
"Tom" didn't have to pay!!

We had so many members
That donated to our cause
So! Now we'd "like to give you all"
A great big LOUD applause!!

One Year As A LLWL

"What is a LLWL?" you might ask. LLWL is Licensed Lay Worship Leader and is the official title for what some folks refer to as a Lay Preacher (not to be confused with a Lay Minister).

This past year, I have been called upon to lead Sunday worship at five Pastoral Charges: Elmsley/Lombardy; St. Paul's, Perth; Boyd/Franktown; Cedar Hill/Pakenham; and here at Trinity.

I have been fortunate enough to lead the service in front of small groups, nine to thirteen, to services with 150 or so in attendance: what a blessing and at times a challenge.

Through the summer into the fall, I worked, on average, every second weekend; traveling close to 270km and clocking about 140 hours prep and work time.

Every hour and every kilometre have been worth it and more.

It is a journey, and I am continuing to explore where the Spirit is calling me to be.

Norma Wrightly



TRINBIT!

In Trinity's Historical Room you will find a treasure store of our history from old records and books to pictures of past ministers and events to an original corner stone. Recorded in the handwritten documents are the names of many of our forefathers who struggled with building pains and finances etc. similar to what we experienced in 2009. This room has been newly repaired and painted during our restoration project, but unfortunately at time of writing the sorting and filing has not been completed. Come in and browse, something of interest is sure to catch your eye.

United Church Women's News

The United Church Women continue to be a very busy group of women, despite being another year older (SHHH!).

Trinity Variety Night on April 24th. You may be surprised at the talent we have in our midst. Come and join us for an evening of entertainment and yummy desserts. Linda Stronski is the gal to call for more information.

Strawberries and summer just seem to go together. Our summer wouldn't begin on the right foot without a Strawberry Social to kick off the season. The tentative date for our dinner will be June 23rd; of course it depends on the availability of the berries. Watch the bulletin for this supper announcement.

LADIES LUNCH OUT: This was a huge success last year and we are going to continue with this again this year. Mark **June 05** on your calendar and join us for lunch at the Manhattan Bar and Grill. Elizabeth Donaldson is organizing the menu again this year. Watch for sign up sheets and menu selections. Special entertainment included.

Church Camps



The Bay of Quinte Conference has three church camps: Quin Mo Lac Camp near Tweed; and within the boundaries of Renfrew Presbytery there are: Golden Lake Camp on Golden Lake, and Camp LauRen on the Ottawa River near Deep River.

The Worship and Arts committee is hosting a 'Camping Sunday' that will be fun and informative reflecting on the importance of Ministry Church camps.

The UCW has a camp budget line and the New Horizons Unit has helped to send children to camp for the past four years.

Christian Development/Children's Ministry

Hello all!

Our Children's Ministry is going well. This year we only have four teachers, Kim Chatwood, Bev Lacosse, Theresa Bisillian and Beth Hill.

The four of us, have worked out a schedule, so that two of us teach together one week and then switch the next week. This does work out to our benefit, as we as adults need our growth in Christian faith. Having said that, it is sometimes challenging with just the four of us, if someone is sick or is away. If anyone is interested in helping us out, please do not hesitate to come forward and talk to us.

Our weekly lessons with the children consist of a verbal lesson and then usually a craft that relates to what we have talked about.

This year we decided to have the children start upstairs in the Upper Room and then come down to the sanctuary during collection.

We feel it fitting that to come down during offering, and we pick one or two children to take our children's ministry collection plate to the front as well. We feel it is important for the children to feel part of our congregation and this is one of many ways.

We introduced our new classroom mascot a few weeks ago and his name is Saviour. This has brought smiles to the children and they love it. Each Sunday, Saviour is brought out for a few minutes at the beginning of our time together to get us started.

A few people in the congregation have generously donated craft items that we can use with the children and we thank them very much.

We have asked the communication team if Children's Ministry would be able to have a page on our church web site.

We feel that parents, grandparents etc, through the web site, will be able to find out more about our children's ministry. We are hoping that we can put on the page every month, what we will be learning week to week and add some pictures, which the parents so willingly have approved to let us do. We are currently working on that and I think this will or may help out with some communication about Children's Ministry.

Our Youth group has met twice so far this year. The youth/teen group with the help from Christian Development has decided they are going to do a fund raiser. We are putting on a Mad Hatter Tea in April. More details to follow.

Thank-you!

Beth Hill

Fundraising Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY	STATUS	SPONSORS	LEADER	FUNDS
03/03 and ongoing	Meat Pie Sale	C/F	J.&M. Fingland	J.&M. Fingland	Gen. Fund
03/27	Mom to Mom & New to you	C/F	UCW	New Horizons/ Friendship	
03/28	Palm Sunday Brunch	C/F	UCW	New Horizons	
04/24	Variety Night	C/F	UCW	UCW	UCW
04/30	Bake Sale	C/F	Fin. Com	A.Pattemore	Gen. Fund
05/02	Anniversary Coffee Time OR Ham & Bean Supper		UCW		Church
05/01	Geranium Sale (Mother's Day)	C/F	Fin. Com	A.Pattemore	Gen. Fund
06/23	Strawberry Social	To Be C/F	UCW		Trinity Out-Reach
09/13-23	Apple Pies	C/F	UCW		UCW Projects
09/18	Mom to Mom		UCW	New Horizons	
10/TBA	Fiddler's Sunday	T	UCW		
10/	Halloween Dance (ESP)	T	Hill Family	J.&B. Hill	Renovation
11/06	Candy Cane Bazaar	C/F	UCW		
11/14	Coffee Time: GCCP		UCW	New Horizons	
12/10	Bake Sale	C/F	Fin. Com	A.Pattemore	Gen. Fund

Note: Legend—T is Tentative; C/F is Confirmed

Potential Fundraising Activities

Worship & Arts is investigating the possibility of hosting a series of (3) musical events – 1 event this spring (March to July) and two (2) in the fall. Groups & dates to be determined.

The Fundraising Committee under the leadership of Treena Leever is seeking the participation of interested vendors to hold two events this year (a “Spa Day) and a (“Cropping Day”), the later is not “cutting hay” and Christmas Craft Sale.

The “General Fund” Fundraising activities being planned are Bake Sales (2), BBQ (Independent Grocers), Car Rally/Amazing Race, Autumn Dance, Geranium Sale (Easter), Hymn Sing, Yard Sale, Fall Auction and continuing the Gift Card Program (Loblaws, Basics, Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire) and Book Sale. Dates and organizational responsibility assignments to be determined.

Meat-Pie Sale - In their travels, John & Marguerite Finland discovered a congregation that makes and sells meat pies. This endeavour has provided considerable funding for that church. John made a presentation to the Men's Breakfast Club and was encouraged to move ahead. Fundraising committee supported the notion. Trial runs with the Cameron & Finglands took place and were successful. Production started on March 3 and pies will be available after worship in the Church Hall starting March 7th. Cost is 2/\$5.00 or 6/\$12.00. They are delicious!!!

The windows covering the stained glass windows are being repaired or upgraded. There are 13 windows in total. At present, 3 of them have sponsors. Windows ranging from \$5-600(4) to \$2460(4) to \$12,300(1) are available for individuals/families or groups eg. Friendship Unit to fund. Contact Bob Swan @283-4933 or Tom Foulkes for further information.

Board Restructuring

Since early 2008, a group of 5 people have been working diligently to suggest ways by which we can improve the operation of the Board of Management (B of M) through reorganization and/or changing the way(s) in which the B of M conducts its business. Our proposed new structure was approved at the annual congregational meeting on February 28th, 2010. Some of the key changes include:

Combining the tasks formerly carried out by 10 different committees/teams into three teams. Each team will have a clearly established list of responsibilities and tasks that fall under their control. We envision each team having a group of people at their disposal who are willing to complete tasks either on a short or long term basis. These people would not be required to attend team meetings, rather would be able to serve as their time, skills and interests dictate.

Christian Community Team:
Co-ordinate all aspects of communication within and outside the Congregation, reach out and nurture their needs and maintain membership/adherent records. Create opportunities for action in issues related to Mission and Service, local and international issues. Maintain and care for the Historic Room.

Spiritual Leadership Team:
Provide opportunities, challenges and encouragement to enable members of the Congregation to grow in their Christian faith through worship, Christian education, children's programs and music. Maintain and care for the Church Library.

Stewardship Team:
Oversee all financial and maintenance aspects while striving for financial stability. The Treasurer will be a member of this Team. Maintain and care for the Church building and land. Maintain all aspects of “Gifts and Memorials”.

Giving teams control over decision making.
As each team will have their own areas of responsibility, they are given the freedom to make decisions and spend their allocated budgets as they see fit. When decisions impact more than one team or are not within the parameters outlined under their particular set of tasks, they should be brought to the church council level.

The church council as a forum for communication, oversight and strategic planning.
The church council also has a set of responsibilities which includes but is not limited to; coordination of activities within the church, facilitating relevant training for persons serving within the church, nominating and filling positions, maintaining up-to-date policy and procedures documentation.

Implementation is proposed to take place in September 2010. As recruitment begins this spring, please consider sharing your talents and gifts either by serving on one of the new teams or by offering to serve in another capacity. More detail on the specific tasks and responsibilities that each team will encompass will be provided in the coming months to allow all of us to think about the ways we will choose to share our time and energy.

Arlene Hunter
arlene_fraser@hotmail.com

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Team for Improvement of Operation of the Board of Management



TRINBIT!

Remember to visit our revised Trinity United Church web site for information on upcoming services and relative church information!
www.trinityunitedsf.ca



TRINBIT!

Have you been to visit **Trinity's Library** lately. You will be pleasantly surprised with it's new peaceful look.

The freshly painted walls, carpeted floor and new curtains encourage you to sit down, relax and discover one of the many resource, children's or easy reading books. You can borrow a book at no charge, just follow the simple instructions on the desk. Hope to see you there.



Special Worship Services Questionnaire

The worship Committee would like to thank everyone for completing the Questionnaire regarding our Special Worship Services throughout February, 2010.

The positive response for these services provides the worship committee with information to take into consideration when planning future services.