

# The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church  
Smiths Falls, Ontario

## Thanksgiving 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.**





*Throughout The Communicator, look for “WoodChips” taking the place of the Minister’s Message.*

WoodChip #1  
Need to unwind? Pause and breathe? Just enjoy a few tunes? Drop by Trinity on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm for a moment of ‘music and meditation’.....almost no talking - just the sounds of our new Heintzman grand piano or our new Baldwin organ and a saxophone or two. We keep things to a brief half hour of music and then people carry on with their evenings.....John Wanless and I are in our second year of offering this intimate time of peace and music. Drop by and unwind with us. Our next date is Tuesday, October 30th at 6:30pm.

**Greetings From Church Council**

*Your Church Council would like to report some developments since the last COMMUNICATOR.*

*The Recognition Wall has been completed and mounted in our Church Hall. It is a marvelous tribute to the congregational support of the major renovation of our Church Hall and the front entrance including the installation of an elevator. Now all three floors of our Church can be accessed by those who have difficulty with the stairs. The background of the Wall depicts on one side the old face of the front entrance of Trinity while the other side depicts the new front entrance being easily accessible. Interspersed between these two images are photos of the work being done to bring about this transformation.*

*A sister plaque to accompany the congregational Recognition Wall is being prepared and it will feature a tribute to the Implementation Team who spent many dedicated hours of time and talent making the transformation possible under the leadership of Project Manager, Tom Foulkes.*

*Council has adopted the theme of “Exploring Growth” as its mission. To that end, our decisions are directed to finding opportunities to grow not only in numbers but by providing programs to deepen our faith experience and partnering with the community by sharing our Church building.*

*We welcome the Early Years Play Group to our gym on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. These young Moms and Dads with their pre-school children will have the opportunity to socialize through play and to build bonds of friendship and support. Some of our Church family started coming to Trinity from the Play Group some time ago.*

*During the summer, an opportunity to upgrade our organ presented itself through the efforts of our organist, John Wanless. As reported to the congregation on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the existing organ was in need of costly repair. A special meeting of Council was called to consider the purchase of a gently-used Baldwin organ for \$29,000.00. Discussion and cost considerations including contributions by Memorial Fund of \$12,000, Choir Fund of \$1,000, trade-in of old organ of \$6,000 resulted in the Council proceeding to authorize the purchase with \$10,000 balance owing. The transaction was completed in a timely fashion and on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 John Wanless treated us to the melodious sounds of this wonderful instrument. We look forward to many concerts and recitals in the future and trust that the congregation will support the fundraising efforts of the Music Team to pay off the remaining \$10,000.00. Stay tuned as to updates on how the fundraising is progressing.*

*Currently, the Council is examining its Policies and Procedure Manual and making those changes necessary to align it with the new governance model we adopted in 2010.*

**Upcoming Services**

- Sept. 30 Women’s Sunday**  
*Guest speaker: Barb DeJeet. Finger Food luncheon in the Church Hall following the service (A-M provides first course, N-Z provides second course).*
- Oct. 7 Thanksgiving / Worldwide Communion**
- Oct. 14 Morning Prayer Service**  
**Led by Trinity’s choir**
- Oct. 21 Baptism Service**
- Nov. 11 Early Communion 9:00am**
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Service**
- Dec. 2 First Sunday of Advent Communion**
- Dec. 9 Early Communion 9:00am**
- Dec. 9 White Gift Service**

**Other Dates to Remember**

- Sept. 25 Music and Meditation**  
*6:30pm—7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Take time out of your busy week to find focus as the sun goes down.*
- Sept. 26 Bible Study with Rev. Peter Woods**  
Resumes Weekly at 9:00am in the Upper Room.
- Sept. 29 Cultural Day events at Trinity**  
4:00—5 :00pm  
Songs of the Soul- music for organ, saxophone and voice.  
5:00—6:00pm  
Sing Out! With Trinity Choir and Friends
- Sept. 30 Food Bank**  
Please remember donations for the food bank.
- Sept. 30 Country/Gospel Jam & Brunch at the Manhattan**  
Featuring Amanda Bon and her Bluegrass Band.

**Other Dates to Remember**

- Oct. 8 7:30pm**  
**Country and Gospel Classics with Country Blend on tour from Southern Manitoba. Tickets are \$15. Proceeds support Organ Fund and Dental Coalition.**
- Oct. Bible Study with Rev. Peter Woods**  
Weekly at 9:00am in the Upper Room.
- Oct. 28 Food Bank**  
Please remember donations for the food bank.
- Oct. 28 Country/Gospel Jam & Brunch at the Manhattan**
- Oct. 30 Music and Meditation**  
*6:30pm—7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Take time out of your busy week to find focus as the sun goes down.*
- Nov. Bible Study with Rev. Peter Woods**  
Weekly at 9:00am in the Upper Room.
- Nov. 3 Candy Cane Bazaar**
- Nov. 11 Great Canadian Coffee Party**  
In the Church Hall, following the service
- Nov. 24 Vendor Sale**
- Nov. 25 Food Bank**  
Please remember donations for the food bank.
- Nov. 25 Country/Gospel Jam & Brunch at the Manhattan**
- Nov. 27 Music and Meditation**  
*6:30pm—7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Take time out of your busy week to find focus as the sun goes down.*
- Dec. Bible Study with Rev. Peter Woods**  
Weekly at 9:00am in the Upper Room.
- Dec. 7 Trinity’s Bake Sale**  
County Fair Mall

**The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, Moderator  
Learning to Live in Babylon (Cont;d.)**

*Then another big deal: General Council has committed our church to a three-year comprehensive review. Oh, I know, that sounds so very bureaucratic, but what it really means is that we will be putting everything on the table, opening up key questions about what we are called to be and do as a church, and what changes will be demanded of us. Over the next three years there will be extensive consultation and prayer, much questioning and dreaming, and much study of scripture and social trends. There is even the possibility of inviting every congregation across the country to engage in a time of self-questioning and exploration so that this review becomes a grassroots movement. Who knows where this will lead us? I find it exciting and hopeful and I see it being a major part of what I am about as Moderator.*

*You see, I believe there are two key narratives that we need to focus on. First, we know we are living in exile, in Babylon, and there's no going back to the "good old days." We probably need to do a bit more lamenting—but then we have to figure out how to live in Babylon, how to sing the Lord's song in a new way, seeking the welfare of the city, the town, or the village in which we find ourselves.*

*Which brings me to the second half of the story: right across the country, new and exciting ministries are already happening. And why should this surprise us, we who are rooted in a story of crucifixion and resurrection? Communities of faith—some experimental, some small, some a bit larger—are exploring new ways of worshipping, witnessing, and serving, though perhaps initially seeming as strange and unrecognizable as the risen Christ was to his first followers. This is Diana Butler Bass territory of deepened spiritual practices and communities rooted in prayer and hospitality. This is Emergent Church territory, where we look for sparks of the Holy Spirit, where people are excited about Jesus and are in love with the world.*

*This is what will drive me as Moderator for the next three years. I'm passionate about the United Church, about its particular voice and gift for the wider church and for the world. The next several years will be tough for our church—and they are an opportunity, a call from God to become something new. I really believe this. And I will keep praying for us, for our United Church, rephrasing lines from the Letter to Ephesians (3:16–21). I pray that we will be "strengthened in our inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love, and that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Jesus Christ, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. To God, who by the power that is at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be the glory."*

*The Right Rev. Gary Paterson*

*Moderator*

**Upcoming Concert at Trinity**

*On Monday October 8th @ 7:30 Trinity United Church will have the pleasure of presenting the wonderful Southern Manitoba based group Country Blend who perform old time country and gospel classics from legendary artists such as Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson. The group has five seasoned musicians who all come from a farming background, started touring in November 2004 and now have released 10 CDs. Their music is high energy full of rhythm, great harmony and fantastic piano playing.*

*One testimonial cites: Recently we had the Country Blend group at our Centre for a fundraising concert. They were fantastic. They sing country and gospel music and having amazing voices. The jokes that were told were clean and very humorous. I would highly recommend you getting them out for a fundraiser".*

*If you would like to know more about them, please visit: [www.countryblend.ca](http://www.countryblend.ca)*

*Tickets for the show are available for \$15 each by calling Gwenda @ (613) 283-4444, before or after church and at The Kiosk at the County Fair Mall.*

*Proceeds from the performance will go to pay for Trinity's wonderful new organ and the Dental Coalition.*

**WoodChip #2**

*The cornerstone of our faith is the Bible. So we have a bible study each week on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-10:30 am. The conversation touches on everything from the NHL to Canadian politics, memories of growing up in Smiths Falls and all the challenges that come our way in life. With that said, our conversation does centre around weekly readings from Hebrew and Christian scriptures...often providing me with fuel and inspiration for sermons and other conversations. It is loose gathering of folks and you would be most welcomed to join us!!!! Drop by once in awhile or make it part of your weekly routine. Either way, your place in the conversation would be valued...and your ability to apply the Bible to life's circumstances will be increased.*

**From Your Music Team**

*If you had just returned from your summer hiatus, you probably noticed our sanctuary has a new organ. It was just installed on September 8, and we have already received several positive comments regarding the nice tone of this instrument.*

*Details of the logistics in the acquisition of the new organ were being written up in the bulletin of September 9. Different avenues are now being planned to see that the organ will be paid off in the soonest possible time.*

*At our last meeting, the Music Team is going to initiate a campaign offering the congregation to adopt a key(s), pedal(s) or stop(s) of the new organ. This organ, Baldwin 450 has 61 key on each of its four manuals, for a total of 244. It has 38 stops on each side for a total of 76, plus 32 pedals. The total number of keys, stops and pedals total 352. We are asking people to donate for any single item or multiple combinations for \$20 each. You can put your donation in your offering envelope indicating your donation toward # keys, pedals or stops, or, in a separate envelope making sure to include your name, address and postal code. Please leave your envelope in the collection plate. Progress of the campaign will be announced periodically.*

*We encourage each and everyone to participate in the campaign, to exhibit our collective support to the church.*

## Greetings From Church Council (Cont'd.)

### OPPORTUNITY:

We are currently looking for a Council Secretary to take minutes at our five scheduled meetings each year and to collect team reports and circulate them to the Council prior to each meeting.

As some of our Team Leaders and members are coming to the conclusion of their 2 year terms, we invite anyone who is interested in serving on a Team to make your interest known. A Nominating Task Group will be formed shortly with a view to filling upcoming vacancies in 2013.

Let us be thankful.

Jan Montgomery  
Council Chair

### WoodChip #3

Each month we lead worship services at Van Horne, Willowdale and Broadview. We do this on the first Tuesday of the month. It is great when a few extra congregation members, often from our Caring Community team, join Judy Drummond and I as we lead in a brief service. It's a perfect afternoon to drop by any one of the three homes, and be an encouraging presence from our congregation. It's always lots of fun as well.

## Youth Report From General Council

From August 11th until the 18th I had the honour to attend the 41st General Council as a participant in the Youth Forum. For that program, the youth split into three streams, Walking Humbly, Seeking Justice and Loving Kindness all based on the Micah 6:8. I was a participant in the Seeking Justice Stream. My stream visited the Museum of Science and Technology to view the exhibit "Sex: A Tell-All Exhibition", to understand sexuality and how it relates to justice.

During "open discussion" participants were free to lead or suggest a topic for discussion. I went to two topic circles: physically attending a service in the building or focus on offering alternatives through internet technology. I also found the Campus Ministry to be quite informative and interesting.

I found what the aboriginals in attendance had to say about their family and friends experiences in residential schools very saddening. Even though I had an idea from history classes and other sources, it made more of an impact to hear from those directly affected.

At General Council, there was a discussion to call for government action regarding concerns in the Middle East. I believe there were far more important, but much less political issues to be discussed at General Council.

I learned many things while at General Council and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this Youth Forum. Thank you for your support in sending me there.

Sincerely,

Brandon Perry



## The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, Moderator Learning to Live in Babylon

September 17, 2012

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ,

Already September and all the busyness that comes with the changing of seasons. I imagine many congregations caught up in Welcome Back—or, as some might say, Welcome Forward—services. General Council is already a distant August memory. You might have seen the occasional media hit criticizing the United Church for its decisions about Israel and Palestine, or perhaps the Enbridge pipeline, and maybe you will have heard that I am your new Moderator (or maybe not).

Regardless, I need to connect, to say, "Here I am!" and to talk about a couple of events at General Council, mingled with a few hopes and dreams.

Although the report on Israel and Palestine received extensive media coverage, it wasn't the most important thing that happened at General Council. The most important thing, believe it or not, was a deep wrestling with what it means for us to be church.

First, we signed a covenant with our First Nations brothers and sisters that is to be read alongside the Basis of Union, a recognition and an honouring of their presence at the very beginning of the United Church, way back in 1925. As a symbolic statement of that truth, the church crest was changed to include the four traditional colours and the phrase "All my relations" in Mohawk: "Akwe Nia'Tetewa:neren."

Second, we have formally expanded our doctrinal statements in the Basis of Union to include the 1940 Statement of Faith, the New Creed (1968), and the more recent Song of Faith. That may not sound like a big deal, but it's the first time we've ever made a change like that—an affirmation that we are committed to the task of keeping our faith contextual and real, as we keep searching for fresh language and new ways to talk about the gospel.

And that's precisely the challenge that is facing the United Church: how to be contextual, real, fresh and new. This was a General Council that knew all about the disturbing statistics of shrinking numbers, aging membership and declining finances. A challenging and honest document called "The State of the Church" was the lens that focused our work. So we did some technical work, like trying to simplify the Manual and our way of doing business—stuff that should make life a lot easier at the congregational level. Then there was an exciting report that talked about different expressions of ministry—ordered, lay, in between—and conversation about "local ordination" exploring the balance among gifts, education, and a whole lot of Spirit. Supporting, strengthening, and expanding leadership is a key issue for our church.

WoodChip #6

We need to find our way back into community service. Lots of it is happening and we are involved. But it is time to align our faith life with the hard realities of life in our town....we have made inroads: Dental Coalition, Early Years Playgroup, Food Bank, Good Samaritan Fund.

We are also looking at new partnerships - Youth Homeless Shelter being the main candidate. How we work with these groups and engage with them will absolutely define our relevance in the years ahead. It is also a way of transforming our newly renovated building into a newly minted sanctuary for our whole community. Watch how we treat these partners....we will be judged accordingly.

### Youth Homelessness

Many people believe youth homelessness isn't a big problem in Lanark County because you don't see panhandlers and people sleeping on the streets like in Ottawa or Toronto. People have in their mind an image of a homeless youth as a troubled kid with tattoos, piercings, and a drug problem that has led them not only to be abandoned by their parents, but also into a life of crime.

That isn't homelessness. That is an image in our minds, put there by Hollywood movies, books and stereotypes. Most of us struggle to understand what homelessness looks like in our community, and how people end up homeless.

Youth end up homeless a variety of ways, some of them simply struggle to follow rules and be respectful of their parents, but a great many have been in and out of care with CAS and leave because their parents are unable to parent them; others are asked to leave because their parents can't afford to keep them there; still others leave because home isn't a safe place for them.

*They are not runaways, with a choice, out looking for excitement. They are abandoned, alone, and without any other option. Many youth first experience homelessness at the age of 15.*

*There are currently no shelters or emergency housing anywhere in Lanark County for the homeless.*

*This winter, Successful Transitional Avenues for Youth is hoping to launch a Warming Center in partnership with Trinity United Church, as well as other faith based and community groups in Smiths Falls.*

*We'd like to open the Center 3 nights a week during the overnight hours (ex 8pm-8am), providing a warm, safe place to sleep for those community members in need. This program alone will not end homelessness, but it is a good place to start.*

### What can you do to help?

Volunteer – we need volunteers (at the warming center, to help with fund raising activities and to join our board of directors)

Donate gently used bedding and/or cots  
Fund raising Activity – help us raise fund to purchase much needed supplies for the center

Space- donate a space that we can use to provide the warming center

Anyone interested in learning more about **Successful Transitional Avenues for Youth** can visit our website [www.stay-lanark.com](http://www.stay-lanark.com). We'd also be happy to hear from people with specific questions or who wants to get involved, just email us at [stay4lc@gmail.com](mailto:stay4lc@gmail.com).

### Christian Community Team

*The Christian Community Team was busy during the summer.*

*Two BBQ's were held at Garden Market by the Membership and Welcoming Team. A free community BBQ hosted by the Outreach Team was held August 26, 2012. Food was served in the church hall and tables were nicely decorated. Forty guests attended and were very grateful for the meal and hospitality. It was requested one be held quarterly but sponsored by other groups at Trinity. Any groups willing to take this on could contact Brenda King. Thanks to all who contributed to the freewill offering and those who donated food. Special thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to make the day a success... Brenda King, Barb Byam, Norma Wrightly, Linda Ziemann, Cynthia Sirrett, Bob Wrightly, Bob Dryden and Brandon Perry. The leftover buns, hamburgers and hotdogs were donated to the Salvation Army who served a meal the next day.*

*We are sorry to report Brenda Swan has resigned as leader of Caring Ministry. Thanks for a wonderful job Brenda, you were always a positive voice at our meetings. We will miss you.*

*The Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC), a program of children's resources on wheels (CROW) is happy to hold our playgroups at Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls. The playgroups run on Wednesday and Thursday mornings each week from 9:30 to 11:30am. The Early Years Centre playgroups offer participants the opportunity to explore and learn through play while establishing friendships and networks of support. Early learning activities include interactive learning, imaginative play, creative arts and crafts, music and movement and literary activities. For more information on the playgroup please visit the website at [www.crowoeyc.com](http://www.crowoeyc.com) or contact Lori Wintle at [613-283-0095](tel:613-283-0095) ext 310.*

### Christian Community Report (Cont'd.)

*Trinity was approached in the spring regarding homeless youth in Lanark County. The program is called STAY - successful transitioning avenues for youth in Lanark County - led by Ann Emon who spoke at Trinity during church service this summer. We are continuing to have discussions regarding the program. For more info please visit [www.stay-lanark.com](http://www.stay-lanark.com).*

*Six members of our congregation attended a two-hour Microsoft Publisher workshop on August 27th. The workshop leader was Diane Bennett with the Communication Task Group as the organizer.*

### Stewardship Report

*Stewardship is still working on getting our roof repaired from the wind damage from last March. The committee would like more members.*

*The play group is meeting in the gym and everyone seems pleased.*

*Our committee is very concerned over our financial situation. This will be addressed in the bulletin.*

*Fred Haughton  
Chair of Stewardship*

## **Board of Trustees**

### **WoodChip #4**

I love country-gospel music. What a thrill for Trinity to be out in the community hosting a monthly musical event. In partnership with Peter at The Manhattan, we are purveyors of fine music...and a great brunch. Last Sunday of the month is the day....11:30 AM is the time. It's a great time for a few tunes with lots of local entertainers. Rev. Larry Paul has been a big hit as the host and key contact for so many musicians.

*First of all I would like to inform everyone the Board of Trustees has not received a Bequest or other financial contribution to-date for 2012. We would ask that you keep Trinity United Church in your thoughts.*

*We have had an inquiry regarding the Bell Avenue property. This will be discussed at our September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with the outcome to be presented at the September 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.*

*We hope everyone had a very pleasant summer and look forward to seeing everyone at church on Sundays.*

*Thank you,*

*Dick Donaldson,  
Chairman, Board of Trustees*

## **A Note From Our Treasurer**

*I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful summer we have had!*

*As your treasurer, I wish I could report happier news. However, a note from the treasurer is usually about looking for more money. When we decided to invest in our beautiful heritage building, we knew it would come with a cost. To the end of July, the general givings are down \$7,000 and fundraising activities are down \$4,000 compared to the 2011 year for the same period.*

*The stewardship committee and council have attempted to keep the expenses under control. To the end of July, \$121,856 was spent to operate the church compared to last year's amount of \$120,478, representing an increase of \$1,378 (1.14%). In summary, the church is operating at a \$18,493 deficit as compared to last year's deficit of \$6,527.*

*To finance this deficit, the general account has borrowed from the capital fund and not remitted its payments to mission and services. I urge you to look at your budget and if at all possible increase your donations to assist in eliminating this deficit and get the general account back on track.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Lawrence Allen, Treasurer*

## **UCW Report**

*Meetings are taking place and the fall programs are underway:*

- *Fellowship of the Least Coin Dedication and General Meeting Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.*
- *The Harvest Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is being prepared by the Friendship Unit and will have limited seating, so get your tickets early.*
- *The Bazaar is on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.*
- *The Great Canadian Coffee Party is after church on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Christmas Pot Luck Dinner is Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please watch the bulletin for further details.*

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Linda Stronski*

## **DOORS OPEN**

*The total guests to all the venues in Smiths Falls was 2,300, the largest ever for Smiths Falls.*

*Visitors to Trinity were from Korea, China and California, as well as from around Ontario.*

*The high school jazz band entertained for about an hour. They are very talented and helped visitors get an idea of the great quality of Trinity's acoustics.*

*If anyone has any ideas for next year, please pass them along to Ron or Linda Stronski at 613-283-3002.*

### **WoodChip #5**

The United Church of Canada is going through enormous changes. General Council 41, new boundaries for Presbytery, Trinity's newly-minted Council structure....some things are dying and some are being born.

Folks at Trinity have been part of all of these things- Brandon Perry and myself at GC, Jan and the whole team on the Council, all our Presbyters (including Grant Gilliland who is helping with boundary changes).

I am convinced that our best way forward is to focus on one thing and one thing alone- authenticity. Jesus demanded it of his followers constantly....offending them regularly.

What's wrong with just being yourself? That's what Jesus wanted long ago...and would still want if he showed up on Beckwith Street today.

Be your God-blessed self, and see what happens. It'll get you into trouble....it'll get our church into trouble as we confront concerns in our world...but we'll be in good company.