

# The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

41 Market St. N. Smiths Falls,

## December 2018



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# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

## “NORMAL,” “TRADITIONAL,” OR NOT - ALL ARE WELCOME

Our Prayer of Gathering on the first Sunday in Advent was supposed to include:

Because of You  
We come to know  
the way to Bethlehem,  
where justice is born  
**to a shunned family,**  
where the riches of Your love  
are born into poverty.

“A shunned family” - Is this true?  
“A shunned family,” - I removed it. I do not believe it.

As a fresh, young minister more than 30 years ago, one of the very first greetings I received was from a woman in the local, country store. “Judge not, lest you be judged. Is what I go by,” she said. “Some people around here might not like the way I live but ...” She continued a discourse that included glass houses and stones, and “the church would fall down if I entered.”

The encounter was curious. I had not heard a single condemning comment about her or about anybody else in the community. She, however, seemed to assume that fingers were wagged *at her* and tongues were wagged *about her*. Her grievous sin; she was not formally married to

The man with whom she lived and with whom she was raising children.

30 years of ministry has been and remains punctuated by forms of apology or sheepish comments regarding a person’s own marital or family status, structure or circumstance. “We’re not really married... Is that OK?” Such comments remain to me because the circumstances most often described as “outside the norm” are really quite common. Also, circumstances for which people assume they will be judged by the church are shared by many people in the church.

Luke 2:5-7

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Mary was an unwed mother who gave birth in a barn (or a cave, or a shed, or a lean-too - we are not sure which). Her explanation was that God, through the Holy Spirit, was the biological father. I challenge anybody to present a family circumstance more uncommon than that. Yet, far from

being shunned, far from having to offer an apology or to be sheepish; this is the most honoured and celebrated family in the Church.

If Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus presented themselves at Trinity United Church on Christmas Eve, they would not be judged. I suspect we would baptize the baby on the spot. This holds true for your family too.

This Christmas and always, you and your family, you and your way of being with people you love are welcome without apology, explanation or judgement. If we can celebrate Mary, Joseph and Jesus; we can celebrate you.

“Normal,” “Traditional,” or not - All are Welcome!

Christopher

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

Your Council has been busy at this time of year reviewing the Teams' Budget and Ministry Plans for the upcoming year. In the last couple of years the Teams have engaged more proactively with planning their budgets with a particular focus on their ministries and what they plan to achieve and how much that would cost. This approach allows for thinking about our mission from a position of abundance rather than scarcity. Trinity's Narrative Budget tells a story of ministry.

We have many stories of ministry to tell these days and the Council looks for-

ward to presenting the budget to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February February. Your approval of the Budget will support Trinity's ongoing work.

The Teams are always looking for interested participants so you are invited to attend any of the Team meetings that may interest you. Dates and times are in the bulletin or you can contact the Church Office, Reverend Christopher or Council Chair at [council@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:council@trinityunitedsf.ca)

The season of Advent is one of waiting in anticipation of the miracle of Christmas. May 2019 bring Trinity no less excitement of that miracle as we provide through our ministries a place that the community finds home.



Christmas Blessings.  
Jan Montgomery

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The “Board” has met twice since our last Communicator Article... most recently on November 27, 2018. Here is an update on what has transpired.

**Financial Report – The total Balance in “Funds Held in Trust to October 31, 2018 is \$207,145.77.**

A Summary of Investments to October 31, 2018 is:

- The Investment Saving Account at Scotia Bank is \$37,805.04
- Trinity's BMO Wealth Management Investment Portfolio is \$143,295.73;
- Trinity's Gift Card Program \$20,000.00; and
- Cash Flow Loan to General Fund is \$6,000.00.

The only big expense since the last report is the \$6,000.00 loan to the General Fund to cover cash flow shortages during the summer months. On the bright side, we received \$29,094.00 through our insurance policy for the repairs to the Church Roof which were made in March 2018 as a result of wind damage.

### **Investment Strategy "Funds in Trust" 2018**

The Graham-Dixon Group (BMO-Nesbitt Burns) continues to provide investment advice and portfolio management. Our investment strategy remains the same... rebuild "Funds in Trust", provide annual income for Church use, while protecting our principle investment. Trustees are currently conducting our semi-annual review of the strategy and portfolio mix.

**Legacy (Planned) Giving** - There are no new Legacy Giving Gifts to report. Trinity's Legacy Giving Program offers a variety of ways that you can make a gift to assist in sustaining the work of Trinity. Information is available at the church office.

Bob Swan, Chairman

## **FROM THE TREASURER**

Christmas is almost here and how quickly the years go by. As so often happens we are showing a deficit in our General Account for the end of 2018. Again you have been generous in your support but there are always challenges to meet our expenses. Your Church Council has been careful in its spending but we always experience unexpected pressures throughout the year. I recognize that we have a very responsible and dependable congregation and I again rely on you to do your best to eliminate the deficit by the end of the year. I commend you on your support of Trinity and hope for a positive balance in our finances.

Christmas is a time for friends and for giving. As you meet your obligations to family and friends I trust that you will again remember Trinity. I am sure that you have been impressed by all the initiatives of the church as it enters into new programs internally and in support of the community. Changes in structure may introduce new expenses in the future and so it is important that we can begin the year with a balanced budget. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

At the end of December I will end my second term as church treasurer. It has surely been a learning experience and in many ways has been enjoyable. I thank you for the privilege of watching over the finances of Trinity and again commend you on your dedication and appreciate your support. I wish you well in the years ahead and congratulate the future leadership of the church and its council teams.

Arnel W. Pattemore, Treasurer.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Stewardship Team has been busy with the budget, fundraising and mission work. We would like to thank everyone for the support of our ministries, which has been a tremendous success; from our perspective. This is the best use of our human and financial resources.

From the Stewardship Team to you, comes our hope that your Christmas is blessed.

May God bless us in the year to come.

Chuck Kempt

## SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP REPORT

It has been a busy Fall. We have started hiking The Rideau Trail. Those who have been able to participate seem to be having a wonderful time.

Our Trinity on Tuesday celebrated its First Anniversary in October and continues to be a success.

We have a great deal to look forward to in the upcoming months. Christmas is upon us and with it comes all the activity that goes with it, both in our personal and church lives.

There will be 3 services again this year on Christmas Eve: One at 4:30, focusing on the Children, One will be at 7:30 for the Family to enjoy and the last Service will be at 10:30, this will be a candle light communion service.

On Dec. 30 we will resume our regular service schedule.

We have lots planned for the New Year as well. There will be an adult study beginning on January 13 right after the church service. It is titled **Embracing Emergence Christianity: Phyllis Tickle**. It will be held in the Chapel.

Look for our Youth Group to be starting! Yes, We have a leader. Further information will follow.

We are also looking at some more Movie Nights, some for Children and Some for adults.

On behalf of The Spiritual Leadership Committee I would like to wish each and everyone, "A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

God Bless,  
Heather Quinn



## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEAM REPORT

We work hard at continuing to be a welcoming church. Thanks to Jeannie Walton for scheduling the greeters. Name tags can be ordered at any time. If you would like to help with Hospitality after the service let us know. This is a great time to catch-up with our friends.

"Loving unbelievers the way Jesus did is the most overlooked key to growing a church. The command to love is the most repeated command in the New Testament - appearing at least 55 times." "Now Go Forward" by J. David Eschelman.

times." "Now Go Forward" by J. David Eschelman.

Healing Pathway is being offered in the chapel on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Rev. Ryan, Carolyn Lunn and Lorraine Allen will be offering this service. To make an appointment please call the office at 613-283-4444.

Members of our team and Rev. Ryan are being inspired by visiting folks from our church. What a pleasure to share in their stories and perhaps offer communion!

You are invited to join us at our worship services at the Retirement/ Nursing Homes on the first Tuesday each month in the afternoon. For more information just ask.

May peace and joy this holiday season light the way to a wonderful year ahead.

Rev. Ryan, Jane, Brenda, Barb, Sharon, Judy, Jeannie, Mary, Cynthia,

### **UNANTICIPATED JOY Outreach and Social Justice Team**

One of the messages of Christmas is allowing ourselves to be open to the experience of unanticipated joy. While we may sing, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," in reality the whole event was quite a surprise to those involved. So it is with much of the past year's work of *Outreach and Social Justice*.

Collaboration between the teams of *Outreach and Social Justice* and

*Spiritual Leadership*, as well as the commitment of many individuals, has yielded unanticipated joy among those who participate in Trinity on Tuesday and, most recently, our 3rd Friday Food Preparation Workshop and Supper. Our evening activities have taken on a purpose and shape of their own. If we had foreseen that the ministries would take the form they have, we might have described them as the more traditional, "Outreach and Mission." Participants would have been portrayed as "being ministered **to**." We wrestled with understanding what had happened - that is - "Is this evening worship?" "Is this a Community Supper?" "Is this for families already connected to Trinity or is it evangelism?" These questions were based on the fact that those who came were regarded as "welcome but 'other.'" However, we have been challenged to cease viewing our community as two separate groups but rather one new community. We are not ministering **to**, we are ministering **with**.

Understanding this is changing everything. As we minister **with**, the experience is much more enriching. Just as we become one community, we see the work as one as well. Mission, worship, pastoral care are interwoven; the effect being much greater than the sum of its parts. This is unanticipated joy indeed.

Lorraine Ryan, Chair



## COMMUNICATION TEAM REPORT

The team has met since the last Communicator. A draft E Mail policy has been prepared and presented to Council for approval. It has been suggested that we should have a computer available for those in the congregation without one. Chris Dickson has developed a survey to present to the congregation both in the bulletin and the next Communicator to see if this would be of use in the congregation. The survey will also ask if members would like to receive the Communicator on line. Results will be implemented in the first quarter of 2019.

"Team Up" is coming along on the website with a calendar of events for all to see--Stay tuned!!

As St Paul's in Perth will be without Ministry for three months of Sundays; they would like our help. They would like to arrange for our Sunday services to be "live streamed" to their congregation during that period of time. Arrangements are being made. There are grants available through the United Church of Canada which will help with using more technology. Rev Ryan has obtained a \$2,500 grant from Presbytery to go towards the above situation and communication equipment.

Our(new-2017) pamphlet is being upgraded. It is used by the Minister and members of the Christian Community team when visiting individuals, potential members and retirement homes.

Tom Foulkes, member

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## Survey from Communications Team

If there was a computer and printer set up for use by whoever needed it for the work of Trinity as well as someone who could help you learn to use it if needed, would you use it?	YES	NO
Would you prefer to get your copy of The Communicator via email?	YES	NO
Or do you like to get the paper copy?	YES	NO

Pl. email response to:  
 thefourdicksons@gmail.com, OR  
 DROP COMPLETED RESPONSE IN  
 OFFERING PLATE

## FOUR RIVERS' PRESBYTERY

Four Rivers Presbytery met for the last time on November 20 at Seeley's Bay.

Beginning January 01, 2019, the United Church of Canada is changing its structure from four to three courts. **Presbyteries** and **Conferences** will no longer exist and new Regions will take their place. Our **Region 12**, newly named **Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region (EOR)**, is ready to begin as of January 01, 2019.

Regionally, there will be interest groups, networks and clusters to name a few of the informal structures. Some will be able to work over long distances and some will be closer to home depending on what the project is.

It is an exciting time with many possibilities. The options are open. The aim is to continue doing the ministry and mission of the Church, still with accountability but less formality.

The Regional Executive Minister is Rosemary Lambie for three Regions: Eastern Central Ontario, EOOOR, and Montreal-Quebec. Karen Valley is responsible for Ministry and Vocations for the same three Regions.

If you have a passion, an idea, a mission project, interest groups are already forming. Talk to Rev. Christopher as to how to connect with these or how to form a new one.

Norma Wrightly

## UCW REPORT

Vendor's sale was a success. Many vendors are interested in next year repeat event. We are preparing for World Day of Prayer. Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region (EOOR) A.G.M. will be held in Perth in April.

I have announced my resignation as President of U.C.W. I hope to be effective in other ways to Trinity and the U.C.W.

Jane Turpin

## TRINITY YOUTH MINISTRY

Over the past 3 Sundays, Maryn and I have been taking orders for Christmas wreaths in order to raise money to donate to the Mission and Service Fund.

We raised enough money to donate toward the following 4 fundraisers:

1. Build a Well: The Build a Well fundraiser contributes to making a safe water system in Bipemba. With the water system, girls and women will not have to go on a 15 to 20 km journey for water, and will have more time to gain greater access to an education.

2. Safe House, Safer Society: The Safe House, Safer Society fundraiser helps educate communities about the dangers of human trafficking, and helps support the operation of a safe house.

3. Off to a good start: The Off to a Good Start fundraiser provides much needed supplies, such as formula and other items needed for newborns of young parents who experience poverty and face multiple barriers.

4. Farming for a Future: The Farming for a Future fundraiser purchases a bull calf for a woman in Western Kenya. They buy, fatten, and sell the bull, and with their profits they buy seeds, giving strength to their communities.

We thank everyone who has bought a wreath and hope you enjoy your holidays!

Kira Peskett



## RIDEAU TRAIL: TIP-TO-TAIL FALL OF 2018

The Trinity hikers are a group of 9-10 folks intent on hiking the Rideau Trail—Tip to Tail. Please, join with us if you are able. We have walked about 65-70 Km this season. The pilgrimage began in Kingston on September 22 and the fifth trek was November 03, at which time we were joined by youth from the Presbytery and their leaders. We jumped ahead to hike from Chaffey's Lock Road back to Perth Road Village. It took as long to walk the first 2½ Km as it did the last 10—that is how rugged the terrain was at the start, especially on a rainy day. We ended at Perth Road Village United Church for a warm lunch and drink and enjoyed watching part of a movie with the youth. Heather McLurg-Murphy was joined by the young people as they sang a parting song for us,

This is a poem/prayer from that day.

### **There is a Time under Heaven**

Thank you, God, for . . .

A time to begin and a time to end.

A time of prayer and a time of song.

A time for silence and a time for talk.

A time to groan and a time to laugh.

A time to climb and a time to sit.

A time for rain and a time for no rain.

A time for solitude and a time to join to together.

A time of thirst and a time to drink.

A time of hunger and a time to eat.

A time for chickadees and a time for the raven

A time to witness the beaver's work and A

time to watch the 'Woolly-bear' seek rest.

A time to gather and a time to reflect.

For everything there is a time under heaven.

Norma Wrightly

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## Letter to the Editor

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018

### Letter to the Editor of the Cornwall Seaway News

This letter to the editor was published in the November 21 issue of the *Cornwall Seaway News*. I was writing in response to a column in the previous edition of this weekly newspaper, mentioning the case of the Rev. Gretta Vosper and the settlement of the review of her fitness for ministry in The United Church of Canada. Columnist Claude McIntosh wrote:

In Toronto, a United Church minister who says the Bible is a fairy tale and God doesn't exist, will continue to deliver her non-Christian message from the pulpit with the blessing of the folks who call the shots in Canada's second largest Christian denomination, the United Church of Canada. Instead of giving her the heave-ho, the United Church moderator (aka big cheese) has asked members to pray for the atheistic pastor and her congregation. Sounds like we should be praying for the United Church...

So I responded:

November 16, 2018

To the editor:

I always enjoy reading Claude McIntosh's column, and he fits a lot of material onto the page. His November 14 discussion of a United Church of Canada minister did not include important parts of the context which are necessary for readers to understand what is happening in this case.

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People who attend United churches are at many different points on their faith journey, but clergy are held to a standard of being found to be in essential agreement with the Church's statements of faith before they can be ordained or commissioned. As Claude noted, a minister in Toronto who professes to be an atheist was placed under review. He says that she will continue to serve "with the blessing of the folks who call the shots," but this is not the case. In the United Church, discipline of ministers is the responsibility of local jurisdictions, just as in Canada the federal government and the provinces have different areas of responsibility. Toronto Conference of the United Church was conducting the formal hearing into her ministry and then settled the case with her and her congregation, which does allow her to continue in ministry. Legal actions often end in settlement, so this hardly represents a "blessing" by any part of the Church; this resolution was not made by the national Church, does not affect any other minister or any other jurisdiction in the Church, and does not imply any acceptance of atheist beliefs as being in agreement with what the Church believes. Claude mentions that the Moderator of the United Church (as he puts it, "the big cheese," which is a good way to explain this position) asked for prayer for this minister and her congregation, which I believe is entirely appropriate. Claude omits that this call for prayer came at the end of the Moderator's letter which states explicitly that as a Christian church, we continue to expect that our ministers will offer their leadership in accordance with our statements of faith. This follows a statement by The United Church of Canada that the resolution of this case does not alter in any way the Church's belief in a God must fully revealed to us as Christians in and through Jesus Christ. The Church's statements of faith have all been grounded in this understanding.

Claude says that we should be praying for the United Church, which I appreciate. Please pray for us as we try to be faithful and loving followers of Jesus, and for all of the churches and faith traditions ministering to the people of the Seaway Valley.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Daniel Hayward UE  
Minister, South Stormont Pastoral Charge  
(Ingleside-Newington United Church and St. Andrew's-St. Mark's United Church, Long Sault)

## December at Trinity

Dec. 6, Thurs – National Day of Remembrance and Action  
on Violence Against Women Service at 11:30 am  
Dec. 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Children's Pageant & White Gift  
Sun. Dec. 16, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, Fri. The Longest Night – A Worship Service of Hope,  
Strength & Community – Winter Solstice 6:30 pm  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & Baptism  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Mon. Christmas Eve – 3 services  
4:30 – Children's Service      7:30 – Family Service  
10:30- Candle Light Communion Service

*You can also find out about what events are scheduled, and where they are held  
by clicking on <http://www.trinityunitedsf.ca/calendar/>*

## Calendar of Regular Events

- \* Trinity Walkers meet at Trinity- Each Tuesday 9:30 am
- \* Trinity on Tuesday in the Hall- Each Tuesday 6:00 pm
- \* Bible Study in Minister's Study- Each Wednesday 9:00 am
- \* Book Club 7:00 pm- Last Monday of each month (except Dec.)
- \* Line Dancing- Every Friday at 11:00 am in the Gym
- \* Rainbow Sabbath- 2nd Friday Monthly 6:00 pm in the Hall
- \* Drum Circle- 2nd Sunday Monthly 1:00pm in the Gym
- \* Prayer Shawl Knitters- 2nd Monday Monthly 1:00 in Parlor
- \* Early Communion- 2nd Sunday Monthly 9:30 am in Sanctuary
- \* Church Service and Sunday School-Each Sunday at 10:30 am
- \* Healing Pathway- 4th Wed. Monthly from 1:00pm to 3:00pm