

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

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"Trinity United Church is a Christian Community that explores and shares its faith in open minded dialogue. Living out the love of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ, we grow spiritually as we connect with, inspire and serve our community and beyond." Connect ~ Inspire ~ Serve



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

**Living things move.
Living things change.
Living things surprise.**

Luke 24:1-12 - But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

John 20:14 - ... [Mary] turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

John 20:16 - Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher)

The Gospel readings for Easter Sunday are two perspectives of a single event. While there are some differences in the telling, we can see a few common elements -

- A small band of Disciples looked for Jesus where they expected to find him. It was a most reasonable expectation. They went to where they last saw him. Added to that, Jesus was dead. Why would they look for him anywhere else?
- People they did not know or recognize as part of their circle of friends knew where Jesus was.
- Jesus came to them but it took a

moment for them to realize who he was...so unexpected was his appearance.

- Jesus was alive.

It is because Jesus is alive that -

- Jesus is not always where we expect to find him.
- Jesus is not only among the people we know.
- Jesus comes to us unexpectedly.

It is because Jesus is alive that we celebrate.

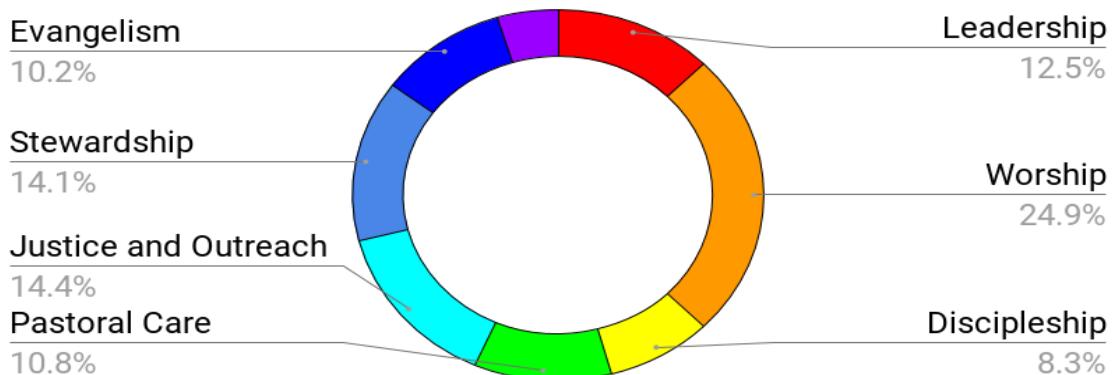
It is because Jesus is alive in us that we, individually and as a community -

Move
Change
Surprise

Easter Blessings,
Christopher.

EASTER MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council has begun its new year with an ambitious budget approved by the congregation and that support is appreciated. The Narrative Budget told the story of how your donations contributed to the work of Trinity in 2018 and this year we hope to be able to expand on those ministries with your continued generous support



As Trinity's anniversary is coming May 5th, it gives us an opportunity to spend time remembering our past and some of the bold decisions made during our history. Very far back there was the decision to purchase property to build the church having originally started as house meetings and later in rented spaces. Of course 1925 saw the amalgamation of the Methodists, Presbyterians (some) and Congregationalists to form the United Church of Canada – a very bold and radical move which has proved to be a successful legacy. Here at Trinity in 2008 we made an exceptional decision to take on a major renovation project of the building in order to preserve our sacred space for many years to come, at considerable cost of our savings and labour. Challenging decisions indeed.

Now as Trinity reaches further out into the community with our ministries, the congregation at its Annual Meeting approved the recommendation of the Outreach and Social Justice Team and Council to become a member of Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble. This organization works for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the United Church of Canada and in society. We join those who will be a voice and a support for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and we will become a truly welcoming safer sacred space. In this regard 2019 will be a significant year in our long and illustrious history.

During this Lenten season let us reflect on our past and prepare ourselves for an exciting future of challenges and celebrations. As Easter people we have been blessed with the Good News story of Jesus Christ to love God and to love our neighbour.

Easter blessings to all,

Jan Montgomery
Council Chairperson

INTRODUCING COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR - KRISTINA MAUSSER

I was born and raised in Ottawa and spent many summers on Big Rideau Lake camping with my family. Later, during university, I would come home during breaks to spend time with my younger sister and my parents at their cottage across from Narrows Lock. To this day, it is still where my family gathers for get-togethers and special occasions.

I never dreamed when I graduated from Hillcrest High School in 1992, that I would make my way back to this region 23 years later and have it become my forever home.

I actually spent about 10 of those years in Southern Ontario. First, attending Wilfrid Laurier University for an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature, and then going to Centennial College in Toronto for two diplomas -- one in Web Publishing and the other in E-Commerce.

During that time, I also had a brief sojourn living in Windsor, where I worked as a Marketing Manager for Great-West Life. I moved back to Ottawa in 2001 when I was offered a job managing Parks Canada's national website and, in addition, was asked to help define the first web standards for the Government of Canada. A couple of years later, I started my own business helping other governments and companies around the world implement digital solutions similar to those I had learned on the job.

Over the 15 years I was in business, I was fortunate to work with amazing clients including the Government of Jamaica, the Government of Dominica, the US Government, Microsoft, Sephora, PepsiCo, Booking.com, and many other well-known brands.



As a result of my expertise, I have guest lectured at Algonquin College, the University of Maryland, and the University of Technology in Kingston, Jamaica, and have given keynote addresses at Internet conferences in the U.S., Europe and Canada. These experiences afforded me a nomination for Canada's Top 40 Under 40 award at the age of 34.

The next step in my career came in late 2018, when I joined e-commerce giant Shopify. It was important for me to find a company that would support my love of this area -- and they do just that through their powering of Tweed's online stores, as well as indirectly supporting the renovation and operation of The Opinicon.

My partner, Jeff, and I have found everything that we were looking for when we moved to Montague in 2015. I immedi-

ately felt “at home” in this community that, looking back, has always been just that for me.

In my first few years here, I have been on the Executive for the Smiths Falls and District Chamber of Commerce Board, played first flute in the Perth Citizen’s Band and the Smiths Falls Reunion Band, and have helped local businesses with their websites and social media strategies.

In spite of my travels and successes, becoming a member of Trinity in 2018 has been one of my life’s most cherished highlights. Whether it’s helping out on Tuesday nights, singing in the choir, discussing books at book club, helping to plan vacation bible school, participating in Outreach and Social Justice activities such as Rainbow Sabbath, or chatting with many of you over coffee during fellowship, I take great joy in being a part of this community that has already given me so much.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER DIANE BENNETT

I grew up outside a little town called South Mountain. I attended Seaway District High School in Iroquois and later went to Algonquin College in Ottawa to study Business Administration, Human Resource Management. Shortly after, I completed a certificate in Labour Management Relations at Ottawa University.

I started my career at QNX Software Systems and then moved on to the National Research Council of Canada in their finance department. I presently work for Children’s Resources on Wheels (CROW) as their Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. I have been with CROW for over 16 years and provide a wide variety of administrative duties to the organization.

In Ottawa, I met my husband David who grew up near Port Elmsley. We married in 1985 and built our first house outside Smiths Falls on Highway 15.

We have three children: Laura, Adam and Dayna. Our children are our pride and joy. Laura married Billy Carley in October 2017 and we are expecting our first grandchild in June 2019. Adam will be returning to school in September to complete his PhD in Computer Science and Dayna is presently completing her third year in Chemistry at Carleton University.

I was fortunate enough to stay at home while my children were small and was able to bring them to the “Young & Restless” playgroup. This gave me the opportunity to meet Rev. Peter Woods and start my journey as a member of Trinity United Church.

I have served many roles at Trinity over the years. My most memorable roles include: Co-Chair to Council during Trinity’s major renovations; Co-Chair to the Intentional Interim Ministry Transition Team; Chair to the Interview Team to find our new Minister, Rev. Christopher Ryan. In between those times, I have participated in Mom-to-Mom sales, Candy Cane Bazaars, New Horizons, Communication Team (helped with the revamp of Trinity’s website), and have even made a chocolate cake or two over the years for Maundy



Thurs-day.

I believe we have a very optimistic budget for the coming year! With that being said, I

am asking for everyone’s help in meeting the budget so we can Connect, Inspire and Serve our Ministry, Congregation and Community. I would like to invite you to participate in the gift card program at Trinity and to consider decorating your gardens with beautiful geraniums with our upcoming sale.

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

LEAVING THE LINENS OF THE TOMB

Luke 24:12 *But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.*



It is easy to forget that we are a blessed people when we are in the

midst of the dark, cold days of winter. But the Easter season calls us to rise up out of the tomb. To turn our faces towards the sun and leave the linens which bind us behind in order to move forward to live into the abundant life promised in Jesus. Affirming we are loved children of God. All of us.

It is exciting that at our annual meeting on February 24, 2019 that is exactly what the people of Trinity United voted to see happen when our motion to join Affirm United passed with over 81% in favour. We will have a celebration to be declared an Affirming Ministry on April 28, 2019 with a special service and guest Linda Hutchinson, coordinator for Affirm United Eastern Canada, joining us.

As a team we continue to work together to find ways we can lose the hold of the linens for each other at Trinity and the community of Smiths Falls. We are thrilled to provide soup and sandwiches for the ‘Trinity on Tuesday’ service, the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Thank you so much to the many volunteers who make this possible with their willingness to make soup, sandwiches, dessert, serving and cleaning up. We typically share worship, a meal and laughter with 60 in attendance. If you find yourself looking for company with which to share a meal you are always welcome at ‘Trinity on Tuesday’.

On the second Friday of the month we host a Rainbow Sabbath Potluck with 20 people in attendance. Here we share stories, learn of events in the community and ways we can help support our LGBTQ2+ friends. All are welcome.

On the 2nd Sunday of the month come out and join the Lanark Drumming Group who meet in our church’s gym for an afternoon of stories, songs and laughter. In our efforts to help our congregation live into reconciliation, we are looking forward to learning with Indigenous Elders about the long term effect of Residential Schools on our Indigenous communities as we host a Kairos Blanket Exercise after church on Indigenous Sunday, June 16th. We will be extending an invitation to the other mainline churches who participated in this tragic history, as well as our town council, so that together, as a community, Smiths Falls can begin to realize the hope

The world is quick to bind us. The resurrection teaches us we must leave these linens behind if we wish to live as Jesus' intended; fully and with joy.

If you are interested in being part of this team we would love for you to join us on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Upper Room.

Lorraine Ryan
Chair of Outreach and Social Justice

LINE-DANCING

Line Dancing is a great way to exercise the body and the brain. Our group of 10 to 20 have a great hour of fun, fellowship, music and exercise.



Every Friday from 11 to 12 noon, we meet in the Church gym with Karen MacPhail leading us. As of to date, with our free will offering, we have given Trinity almost \$400.00.

Everyone is welcome.

Betty Lou Kempt

The Good Food Box

It's not a secret that vegetables and fruits are good for you and that consuming them may help you reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

However, it's not always easy to eat the recommended amount. That's where the Good Food Box program comes in. It's a way of buying fresh produce at wholesale prices so that you can increase your intake of fruits and vegetables and still have money for other food items.

The program is open to everyone. You can try it at any time, and there is no obligation to re-order. Orders must be placed by the 2nd Tuesday of the month, paid for at the time of ordering and they are ready for pick up at Trinity on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

You can order a large box of mixed fruit and veggies for \$20., a small box of just fruit for \$6. Or a small box of just veggies for \$6.

The contents of the orders change from month to month and are based on what is in season. Fresh products are brought in large quantities from a large produce wholesale distributor, and when possi-



Ible, local farmers. The bulk purchase savings are passed directly on to program participants. Ordering a Good Food Box is a wise way to spend food dollars and also helps to keep the program running.

To order, volunteer, or for more information, please contact Chris Dickson or Heather Quinn.

DOUG ROYLE

The following message from Heather Quinn, about her late brother, Doug Royle was shared at a morning service at Trinity on Feb. 17, 2019.

“Doug was a people person. He was loving, caring and compassionate. He was a joker, and a conversationalist. He was a deep thinker. He loved all things to do with family. Family was extremely important to him. Doug and I fought often until I left home. He and I then became very close and I became a close confidant.



When Doug graduated from high school in 1983, he decided to join a group project and travel across the country. The group would work in communities and learn about the different areas in our country. It was during this time, for

Reasons that would discover much later, that he got involved with drugs. When he returned, we did not realize he had a drug problem.

Doug decided he wanted to go to school to become a chef. He chose to go to school in Toronto. A couple of months after he left for school we were surprised and concerned as he hadn't contacted any of us. It was a few weeks after that that he finally called dad. For those of you who don't know me, and it is important to my brother's story, my father was a minister. Doug had been wandering the streets of Toronto, no longer attending school, and yes heavily involved in drugs. Dad and a close friend of his went to Toronto and managed to meet Doug and bring him home. We watched Doug go through withdrawal. Doug decided to attend a rehab facility. He and I communicated on a regular basis. He was struggling with dealing with my parents so I became his, “go to” person. He decided after rehab that he needed a career. Maybe hairdressing would be what he was looking for. Again he went to school, but in Ottawa this time. Again there was a period of time we didn't hear from him. It was not as long this time, and he contacted mom and asked if he could come and bring some friends home with him. His friends' names were Serge and Daniel. When he brought them home he had a conversation with mom and dad. He wanted to let them know- he was gay. They talked with him and his friends about this but never once did they discredit anyone's feelings.

Serge was Doug's chosen partner and Daniel a close friend that drove them wherever they needed to go. They came to my house and Doug "came out" to John and I. We also welcomed Serge into the family without hesitation. Serge and Doug were together for 12 years. We all have wonderful memories of that time.

It was during this time that Doug and I would get into some really deep conversations about his past. I learned of some of the extremely dangerous situations he had been in and I learned how the drugs started. Doug explained that when he went away on his group project, he was trying to figure things out. He knew at that time he wasn't attracted to girls and he was really confused when he found himself attracted to males. He thought he would go talk to a minister where he was. He was basically told, in no uncertain terms that he had to turn it around, that he would not be accepted in that church or anywhere else that being gay was a choice. He was devastated and that night at a party started taking drugs. He was who he was, he didn't choose to be this way

He said he spoke to other ministers along the way during his time with the group but basically got the same response.

Doug asked himself questions like, "I've grown up in the church. I Love God and Jesus. Are they not here for me now?" "Are dad and my family going to turn me away too?"

He admitted it was those things that kept him away from home. He was scared. He looked at me and said, "Heather, I don't feel I had a choice, people have to be born this way. Let's face it, why

would anyone voluntarily choose to put themselves through this kind of treatment by others, why can't they understand that we are just people. Whether we are Lesbian, Gay, bisexual or transgender or we are hardworking, community minded, caring people just like everyone else. We are members of the human race and God made us too."

Doug and Serge separated a couple of years before Doug's death however they remained extremely good friends. Doug worked in restaurants and we heard from him on a regular basis. We knew he was spending time on the streets of Montreal and yes the fear of drugs was still there. We had to maintain our faith that God would lead him on the right path.

On July 14, 2004 a knock came to mom and dad's door. It was the police letting them know of Doug's death and that he had died of natural causes. His story does not end there though. We, along with Serge and Daniel, decided to have a service in a park where Doug and Serge spent a great deal of time. Mom received a phone call from a friend of my brother's expressing his sympathy and asked if



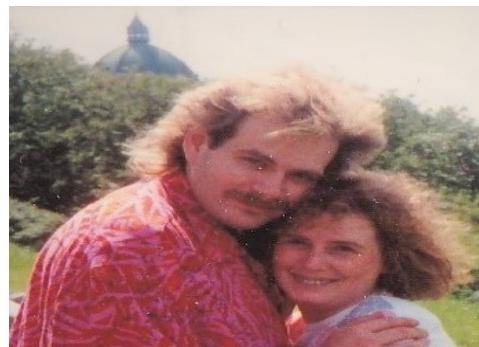
some of the people Doug had spent time with on the streets could come and was there anything they could do. We welcomed

them, figuring there would only be a couple of people. The day of the funeral we were amazed. There had to have been 50 to 100 street people. They told us, and taught us what Doug was about. This poem tells what we learned.....

We didn't know

*How did you always manage to do it?
Right to the very end
You kept those secrets.
Some to be revealed too late
Too late for us to let you know how proud
we were
Of you and what you believed in.
We saw your struggles
We felt your pain
We didn't know
You did well, you did a lot of good
Better than we all knew
These friends, unknown to us, told us you
were respected,
You saved their lives,
You let them know that drugs weren't the
answer
You let them know that prostitution was not
the way.
You encouraged them to return home to
see their families
If not to return...to call
We didn't know
You were like a father to some
A brother to others.
They had your shoulders to lean on
They had your ears to listen to what they
had to say.
They felt your warmth and compassion
You gave all that you had
They, like us loved you
Unconditionally
We didn't know*

*At your funeral they came in droves
We welcomed them in amazement
They travelled so far to come say good-
bye
They were wonderful
They searched us out to tell us stories of
how you had touched their lives
We could see their pain,
We could feel their warmth and caring.
They did not let you down: You had not
let them down.
We know now that Montreal was your
home
Montreal was where you were needed.
The Lord decided you had done what you
could
Your spirit is free.
Now we know*



I love being a member of Trinity. I know that if anyone, no matter their sexual preference, race, or social standing was to come here to find solace, understanding and acceptance that they could find it here. They would be accepted for who they are. They wouldn't need to feel alone like my brother did and they would feel, and be, safe."

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEAM

Spring is here. We are experiencing the birds singing in the early morning, the days being longer, the flocks of geese returning and the wonder and newness of nature.

Our team is excited to be planning a Spring Luncheon for our seniors and shut-ins. This event will be on May 15th in our hall. We look forward to enjoying a delicious lunch, music and worship service with our invited guests. Invitations are being prepared.

Our song books that we use at the retirement/nursing centres have been updated with ten new songs.

We are also working on Easter cards for our Trinity friends.

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia Sirett



THE HEALING PATHWAY AT TRINITY



Jesus healed. The early Church was also given the gift and responsibility for healing. Healing Pathway, a recognized Ministry of the United Church of Canada, was established in 1993 to reclaim the practice of Christian healing. Core beliefs within the practice: all healing comes from God, God works through dimensions of reality that we may not understand, Divine encounters are restorative and practitioners are merely channels of God's Healing Grace. Through Healing Pathway sessions, each person experiences God's presence in a personally meaningful way, broadening and enriching the meaning of "Healing".

Over 100 congregations across the country currently have active Healing Pathway ministries. Trinity has recently embraced Healing Pathway as part of the Christian Community Team and a key component of our Pillars of Outreach and Pastoral Care. It also fits perfectly with our Core Mission to Connect, Inspire and Serve. At present, we have a crew of 6 trained practitioners (Rev. Christopher, Lorraine Allen, Norma Wrightly, Betty Lou Kempt, Linda Stronski, and Carolyn Lunn), gratefully supported by Barb Loynes, a Healing Pathway Practitioner and Teacher who coordinates the program at St. Paul's in Perth.

Healing Pathway sessions are helpful in many different circumstances: chronic

pain, anxiety, depression, side effects of chemotherapy/radiation, and life transitions such as death and separation. We encourage people to come for a few sessions to get the most benefit.

A session usually lasts 30-45 minutes. You will be asked to lie down, fully clothed, on a massage table (or sit in a chair if it's difficult for you to lie down). Two practitioners may use light touch, with your permission, or work around the body without touching. You are free to ask questions or rest quietly and are totally in control of the session. The intention of the session is to support your well-being and wholeness on physical, emotional, mental and spiritual levels.

Some personal experiences:

"I went to Healing Pathway with an open mind not knowing how it would feel and I came away feeling warm, tingly all over, a knee that felt better and feeling very blessed. Was it all in my head or is there really something to this?". - Barb Byam

"I am so glad I took the Healing Pathway training in January. It opened my mind and spirit to more ways our God is truly Holy Mystery and how we as Christians can reclaim healing practices. The first time I took part in Healing Pathway as a practitioner at Trinity, I felt tremendous warmth entering the top of my hand and moving out of my palm to the recipient." – Norma Wrightly

We currently offer afternoon sessions on the fourth Wednesday of each month, with some limited availability on the third Thursday. With additional trained

Volunteers, we may be able to expand healing opportunities beyond the walls of the Sanctuary. Additional information on the Healing Pathway is available at www.healingpathway.ca.

For enquiries, please contact the Church Office.

Submitted by the Healing Pathway Team.

HOSTING THE EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS REGIONAL COUNCIL INAUGURAL ANNUAL MEETING

Excitement is building as we move closer to the date of the inaugural annual meeting for our new Region: Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region taking place June 7 – 9 in Smiths Falls. The meetings will take place at the Memorial Arena with worship at Trinity on Sunday. We expect approximately 300 representatives from throughout the Region.

You will not want to miss church on Sunday, June 9. This historical event will see our sanctuary full and maybe overflowing into the Upper Room, Church Hall and outside. Two people will become ministers in the United Church; there will be communion and wonderful music.

This service will be followed by a lunch provided by the UCW with a free-will donation. Due to the large numbers, people will be eating their lunch in the hall, the gym and outside. Bad weather? No problem, a plan is in place.

Can you supply help of any kind? From June 6 to June 9, we will be looking for help with billeting, lawn chairs, setting up and taking down, help with children and youth, first aiders. Your first opportunity to help will be on May 1st when we are potting our table decorations. See the list in the foyer and the sign up sheets.

Any questions:

Norma Wrightly, 613-283-2877 or Linda Stronski, 613-283-3002

The following article is extracted from *Gathering*, a publication of the United Church of Canada, Lent/Easter 2019 edition.

PRELUDE: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – WHAT'S THE POINT?

Recently, I've been pondering the role of instrumental music in the worship service.

During my various professional experiences leading music in different denominations and congregations, I've noticed that the variety of expectations people bring to worship extends to how they approach the instrumental music, specifically the prelude and postlude. What does this music mean to them personally? Congregationally? How do they interact with it?

I was invited to play for a Lutheran church in Montreal that really valued all the music in the service, and

boy, I don't think I've ever worked so hard! Why? Because the congregation expected a very lengthy prelude (15-20 minutes). Their conversation stopped out in the foyer. When they came into the sanctuary, they expected the prelude to bring them into the realm of the sacred, to allow them to focus and use the music for preparation and meditation. This experience raised some questions: Can the prelude allow us to be still in the midst of our busy lives and block out some of the noise of the week? Can it turn our attention to the important things in our lives, especially our relationship with God and each other? Does it allow us to prepare ourselves for worship?

Other congregations, like one I played for recently, may use and experience instrumental music in a different way. Is the music just for setting mood? Or is it just for background behind the conversation?

Personally, I think the music, whether congregational, choral, or instrumental, should always enhance worship in some way relevant to what is happening in the service or in the congregation. As Luther supposedly said, "Music is the handmaiden of theology."

The prelude and postlude play a special role in enhancing worship and theology. In his article "Prelude, Offertory, Postlude," the Rev. Frank Hughes Jr. describes the prelude and postlude this way: "Like musical bookends, they bracket everything that happens in between, and are theologically related to the central meaning

of worship. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the Prelude and Postlude are worth a library.”

In an article for *Ministry*, published in 1939 but still relevant today, Stanley Ledington speaks of the prelude as “the beginning of the service, not something used to quiet a noisy congregation.....The prelude is not for entertainment or for the purpose of displaying technique, but to prepare for the consideration of sacred things.”

In “what We Do and Why We Do It,” Norman Bendroth discusses the other bookend, the postlude. “The postlude captures the grandeur of God’s majesty and of the day’s worship. Increasingly, many congregations remain seated during the postlude as a fitting time of reflection at the conclusion of worship and out of courtesy to the organist or musician.

The Rev. Frank Hughes Jr. states that “the music at the end of the service pulls together feelings and attitudes already expressed in word and song.” In *A Guide To Sunday Worship*, the authors suggest that while the postlude is not a formal part of the service, “the congregation could be encouraged in the bulletin or by the choir to remain seated to listen.”

When selecting instrumental music that will satisfy its purpose, why not start with these questions, first posed by Stanley Ledington: “Is it good music? Is it suitable for the use to which it is to be put? Will it draw attention to me, or will it tend to induce the proper worshipful, reverent mood?”

Amen!

Tammy-Jo Mortensen
Music Editor

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The United Church Women have elected Brenda King and Linda Stronski to be Co-Presidents with Jane Turpin as secretary. The remaining slate of officers remain the same.

Several members plan to attend the last Four Rivers Annual General Meeting under the Bay of Quinte Conference United Church Women. Our guest speaker is Rev. Heather McClurg-Murphy. It is a great day to communicate with friends from around the area.

Plans are in the works for an Anniversary Dinner. More details to follow. Also watch for information on the Strawberry Social in June.

The structure of the UCW is going to remain the same, with four levels of governance.

National United Church Women
Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region UCW
Four Rivers (Presbyterian) Area
Local Churches

The new five year initiative is “Women for Change Zambia”. This a non-governmental organization in rural communities in Zambia, focusing on social and economic changes that empower women and children. Together we will:

Reduce high school girls’ dropout rates
Mobilize women and men, girls and boys to address inequalities
Raise awareness of education as a basic right and an essential strategy to lift women and families out of poverty in rural Zambia.

Please support this project as we try to raise funds to help the women of Zambia.

Submitted By Brenda King and Linda Stronski



This is another article about Rev. Gretta Vosper. It is a news release on March 28 and posted on Trinity's FaceBook

The Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada have been engaged in a national bilateral dialogue since the 1970s, to deepen our unity in Christ. The two churches remain close partners in many areas of mission and ministry today. As such, decisions and developments in one church are always a point of interest in the other. For this reason, the members of the Anglican-United Church Dialogue of Canada have issued the following communiqué, on latest round of in 2019.

The Anglican-United Church Dialogue Canada held its most recent meeting February 20-22, 2019, at the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, ON. Many items of ecumenical relevance in the life of the two churches were addressed on the agenda.

Among these, the Dialogue devoted a portion of time to a discussion of the November 2018 decision of the Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada to enter into a settlement with the Rev. Ms. Gretta Vosper which allows her to remain in her current ministry at West Hill United Church.

The implications of this decision have been a point of question and concern for a number of The United Church of Canada's ecumenical partners. In the interest of advancing greater clarity and understanding in ecumenical relations, the Dialogue has judged it important to note the following points:

- The decision that the Rev. Ms. Vosper may remain in ministry at West Hill United Church was a decision taken by Toronto Conference, a regional governing body with the responsibility and authority to act in this matter. This decision was not made by the national United Church of Canada; the national United Church of Canada did not have authority in the matter.
- The Conference and the Rev. Ms. Vosper chose to settle the matter between themselves during the preliminary stage of a Formal Hearing on the matter. As a result, the Formal Hearing itself did not take place and therefore no testimony was heard from expert witnesses.
- The terms of the settlement, beyond the fact that the Rev. Ms. Vosper may remain in ministry at West Hill United Church, are confidential.

- This decision, made by a regional body with authority in the matter, does not set a precedent either for that region or for the rest of the United Church of Canada.
- The United Church of Canada's major restructuring that took effect January 1, 2019, means that now all disciplinary decisions about ministry personnel in the United Church of Canada are made by a national committee in the newly created Office of Vocation.

This decision does not change United Church of Canada Doctrine in any way. In United Church of Canada polity, changes to Doctrine require a decision during a General Council meeting to approve a change, a vote in favour of the change by the governing board of a majority of the United Church of Canada's Pastoral Charges and also by a majority of its Regions, and then an affirmative vote by the subsequent meeting of the General Council to ratify the change.

We offer these clarifications to our churches to assist our ongoing dialogue and co-operation in faith and service to the Gospel.

Bishop-Elect Lynne McNaughton
Anglican Co-Chair
Rev. Dr. Sandra Beardsall
United Church of Canada Co-Chair

LOOKING AHEAD

Apr 18 Maundy Thursday - Seder Supper - 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday is a time for remembering the Jewish Seder Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. We will reenact this with a representation of the Seder, with Communion and with a Potluck.

Apr 19	Good Friday	Worship - Westminster Presbyterian 10:30 am "Cross Walk" Procession - 12:00 noon
Apr 21	Easter Sunday	Sunrise 7:00 (Communion) Breakfast 8:00 Easter Worship 10:30
Apr 28	Celebration of Affirm - Plans are in the works.	
May 5	Anniversary Sunday	
May 26	Church Picnic	
July 21	Vacation Bible School – Who Is My Neighbour	

2018 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Ron Stronski has been keeping record of our attendance in Church. These are the results in 2018 . This has been rearranged to fit in the space here.

		A	B	C	D
A = congregation	Jan	291	33	19	4
B= Choir	Feb	271	36	17	10
C= Sunday School	Mar	398	45	20	7
D= Early Communion	Apr	617	36	18	7
Maunday Thurs/47p	May	453	54	18	9
Good Friday/61 p	June	321	44	8	7
Easter Sunday/134	July	343	26	0	6
	Aug	55	1	0	6
Xmas Eve services	Sept	320	28	17	3
4:30 pm /61 people	Oct	386	49	18	10
7:30 pm /86 people	Nov	247	47	13	15
9:30 pm/38 people	Dec	438	51	33	12
	total	4280	459	181	96