

# The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church  
Smiths Falls  
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Trinity United Church  
41 Market Street, N.  
Smiths Falls, ON K7A 4S9  
Phone: 613.283.4444 Fax: 613.283.4457  
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00am—4:00pm  
Emails: [minister@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:minister@trinityunitedsf.ca); [secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca)  
Website: <http://www.trinityunitedsf.ca>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls)

"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

Jeremiah 29:1, 7 (NRSV)

*These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.*

*...Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Jewish and Christian history, as described in Scripture, speak to life in exile. Exile was a repeated reality for the Jewish nation and the letters of Paul are written to a Church in exile, scattered throughout the Roman Empire. In this condition, the community in exile is faced with a choice as to how it will relate to the host community. There are a number of possibilities - distinct and hostile, distinct and isolated, distinct and cooperative, varying degrees of assimilation to include melting away, disappearing as a culture or society.

In both the Hebrew and Christian tradition, we are encouraged to remain distinct while being supportive of the community in which we find ourselves. Likewise, we are encouraged to invite and receive support.

Trinity is possessed of a distinct character amongst her sister Churches and, as a Christian Church, is distinct from other community associations, service clubs and charitable organisations that may share our hopes and ideals but are not faith-based. All of us together find in Smiths Falls a host community with which and in which we have opportunities to cooperate and share our gifts. This supports the welfare of the whole community. In its welfare, we find our own.

This Thanksgiving, let us be found faithful in our prayers for Smiths Falls. Let us celebrate those associations and community groups in which we find common ground. Let us pray for their well-being and seek new ways to reach out, to offer and receive mutual support.

Blessings,  
Christopher



## COUNCIL REPORT

Since the Easter edition of The Communicator, Council met in a special meeting to review the Transition Report as to the recommendations of the congregational input during our Interim Ministry. That Report represents a roadmap for going forward and assists in the 2020 Budget deliberations by defining priorities. A significant indicator is programs for youth. Some attention is being paid in this area and we hope to have news soon on what can be undertaken. Council with the guidance of Rev. Ryan is seeking out grants to help fund an initiative to partner with the community and provide youth programming.

Communication with the congregation continues through the weekly Sunday bulletins, Trinity website, The Communicator, Facebook and the Annual Report. The monthly Council meetings are open for guest attendance. Dates and times are published in the Sunday bulletins or enquiries can be made through the Church office. Council generally meets the last Thursday of each month. Minutes of Council meetings are posted on the bulletin board just outside the Church office and copies can be provided on request.

Any questions or concerns regarding the Church Council can be directed to the Council Chair, Jan Montgomery, or through the Ministry & Personnel Team led by Judy Drummond.

As the year end approaches, the Nominating Team of Jeannie Walton and Diane Combdon will be searching for volunteers to fill vacancies on the Trinity Teams. Participation on a Team or attending a Team meeting is the best way to learn more about Trinity's activities. Consider the opportunity to serve by volunteering. Contact the Church Office for contact information or reach out to the Council Chair, Jan Montgomery at [council@trinityunitedsf.com](mailto:council@trinityunitedsf.com)

Thanksgiving Blessings  
Jan Montgomery, Council Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board has met four times since the beginning of 2019, most recently on Sept 19. Here is an update on what has transpired to August 31, 2019, the most recent date that we have a complete financial picture.

**Financial Report** – We opened 2019 with a total balance of \$214,146.00 in “Funds in Trust”. **The total Balance as of August 31, 2019 is \$224,036.23.**

A **Summary** of Investments to August 31, 2019 is:

The Investment Savings Account at Scotia Bank... \$5,742.68;  
Trinity's BMO Wealth Management Investment Portfolio... \$186,293.55;  
Trinity's Gift Card Program (Loan)... \$20,000.00; and  
"Cash Flow Loan" to the General Fund... \$12,000.00.

The spike in "Funds in Trust" from the beginning of 2019 is a result of the re-investment of the loan provided to the church for repairs to the church roof and the investment of donations for the refurbishing of the floor in the church hall. So far this year, other than banking fees, the only withdrawal of "Funds in Trust" has been the provision of the \$12,000.00 loan to the General Fund to cover church expenses during the summer months when the weekly offerings are low. This loan is made on the condition that it is repaid in full by the time the accounts are closed at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Investment Strategy "Funds in Trust" 2019/2020**

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. To this end, the Trustees, on the advice of our Portfolio Managers, have adjusted the investment portfolio to reduce the holdings in the equity market and have moved those funds to a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). This has been done because of the uncertainty in the global economy. This adjustment will, at least for now, result in a reduction of "annual income" that is available for the church's use.

**Legacy (Planned) Giving** – While we have not received a financial gift so far this year, we have received a beautiful "Needle Point" work of art from the estate of Mrs. Olga Travis. This piece of art is hanging in the Church Parlour. We are most grateful for this gift.

Trinity's Legacy Giving Program offers a variety of ways that you can make a gift to assist in sustaining the work of Trinity which is to Connect, Inspire and Serve each other, our community and beyond. Information is available at the church office. We hope that you will avail yourselves of this information and can see your way clear to make a gift.

If you have any questions regarding this report please contact me by email [rob-dswanc@truespeed.ca](mailto:rob-dswanc@truespeed.ca)

Bob Swan, Chairman, Board of Trustees

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*"The best way not to feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope."* Barack Obama

Looking at Trinity's financial picture, one could choose either to lose hope or to act. On September 9, 2019 we chose to act! We held a brainstorming session to get fundraising ideas on the table and to build some momentum for fundraising. We had 22 people turn out to this meeting and 26 ideas were documented as possible fundraising initiatives (see list below).

The motto for this meeting was **"No idea is a wrong idea!"**

Adopting this motto, we understand that the fall is a busy time of year at Trinity. However, we need to keep moving forward and not lose the momentum. All fundraising ideas are considered worthy and will be evaluated and pursued to their full potential. We understand that we need to be sensitive to volunteer burnout and timing of events. We can find a balance if we **all work together!**

Thank you to everyone who attended the brainstorming session. Your ideas, enthusiasm, and support was greatly appreciated! To make these ideas a reality we invite you to participate in and support all current (gift card program) and future fundraising events at Trinity.

I was reminded recently that we are mentors for our children and community. I would like to share with you a portion of an essay that was written by a young fellow, in Grade 10, who attended Trinity a few years back. I believe this young person's words will remind us of our impact as we "Connect, Inspire, and Serve" others.

*"I am very active with my church. When in Smiths Falls, I went to church every Sunday, with my Grandma....It was always hard for me to sit still in church, but I was accepted for who I was and the church accepted me. I really enjoyed being part of the church family, because they did not judge me. I helped with greetings, did readings, helped with the recording of the sermon. The church helped me go to camp. I went to camp for 6 years and it was fun. If it were not for the church ladies, I would not have gotten the chance to go, and have fun."*

We never know what effect we have on people, so let us continue to give cheerfully with a grateful heart as we serve this Thanksgiving Season.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Bennett  
Treasurer

P.S. Please review the fundraising ideas below to see where you can help.

1. Silent Auction (suggested by two people)
2. TerraCycle – recycling/upcycling to learn more visit this link <https://www.canada.com/en/get-involved/resources/municipalities/terracycle-canada>
3. Calendar ~ tickets see link fo [ayhamunitedchurch/photos/pcb.421973985332862/421973531999574/?type=3&theater](https://ayhamunitedchurch/photos/pcb.421973985332862/421973531999574/?type=3&theater)
4. Sipology – tea company and straws, see link for more details <https://www.sipology.com/>
5. Music: Glengarry Highland Band, Stairwell Carollers
6. Concerts: Choir with people who are not regular choir members
7. SFDCI Reunion Band
8. Rosedale Singers
9. Decorations – bundle items for Thanksgiving, food, etc. for people to buy
10. Table Sale similar to Mom-to-Mom sale
11. Vendor Sale – UCW
12. Fall Food Festival – could maybe be incorporated with Holly Tea next year
13. Soup and Sandwich once a month instead of Hospitality (charge \$5)
14. Art Show
15. Bowes Brothers
16. Fiddler's Sunday
17. Play/Skit
18. Variety Night/ Talent Night
19. Lady Appreciation Night
20. Fashion Show
21. Bake Sale – Sept 20, 2019
22. Christmas Bake Sale depending on how the Bake Sale goes on Sept 20, 2019
23. Concert – The Continentals



## **STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT**

The Team is continuing its work on overseeing the finances of Trinity.

In order to gain a better understanding of how funds are recorded and reported to the Stewardship Team and Council, a Financial Task Group was formed this

past summer. The group consisted of the Treasurer, Diane Bennett, Stewardship Acting Chair, Jan Montgomery and Trustees' Chair, Bob Swan together with Church Secretary/Bookkeeper, Gwenda Kinch. The meetings assisted in developing financial policies for oversight following recommendations of the Independent Financial Review of 2018 and guidelines from the United Church of Canada Financial Handbook for Congregations 2017. The exercise will aid the Teams in their management of their budgets alongside the Treasurer's oversight of the cash flow.

Expenses currently exceed Revenue and while not an enviable position, it is not uncommon and not desirable. The deficit results in restricting Ministry plans as contemplated in the 2019 congregational-approved Budget. Grants have assisted with a few initiatives but the goal of the Stewardship Team is to have Revenue exceed Expenses as an indicator of the confidence of the congregation in the budget and Trinity's mission.

A Fundraising Task Group has met to develop some initiatives and plan events over the year. If you would be interested in serving on such a group whether it be for a single event or many, please contact the Treasurer, Diane Bennett, Reverend Ryan or myself or leave your name with the Church Secretary and we will follow up.

Jan Montgomery  
Acting Chair, Stewardship Team

## COMMUNICATION TEAM

Here is a quick update from our September meeting.

**Announcers:** We are working to involve more people, improve effectiveness and reduce workload of individuals involved.

**Website:** in process of being updated. For current status, please visit [www.trinityunitedsf.ca](http://www.trinityunitedsf.ca)

**Facebook:** Our YouTube channel will be replaced by live streaming to Facebook. Each week Trinity services are being live-streamed to our Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/trinityunitedchurchsmithsfalls](http://www.facebook.com/trinityunitedchurchsmithsfalls)

**A/V Equipment:** We have added one microphone on a stand and one wireless headset mic. We also are looking for additional monitors for inside the church lobby area to feature events and happenings from our digital calendar.

A grant from the United Church of Canada, as well as a member donation, has allowed us to purchase technical equipment to improve our sound and live-streaming capacity.

**Communicator:** We are experimenting with different types of software to improve our newsletter.

Submitted by  
Peter Au and Chris Dickson

## UCW UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> we are hosting the inaugural EOR (Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region) UCW Annual General Meeting. Cost is \$15.00. Come and join us for a catered lunch and learn about our new 5 year Project “Women for change – Zambia”.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Four Rivers Rally at Wall Street United Church in Brockville. Please register by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

October 16, 7 pm is our UCW General Meeting - in the lounge

October 30 – Mid Week Event – Pickering Village

November 2 is our Annual “Holly Tea and Bazaar”. More information is to follow  
December 4<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Christmas Pot Luck. **All women of the Church are invited.**

Submitted by Brenda King and Linda Stronski

## EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS REGION

A New Day Is Dawning - this is the theme for our newly formed Region, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region of the United Church of Canada. The United Church has gone from a four-court model to three—General Council, Regions, Communities of Faith.

At the inaugural meeting in June close to 200 delegates from across the Region joined together in Smiths Falls to elect a Council executive and approve governance procedures.

Linda Stronski, our local and Regional UCW president, was elected to the executive of the new Region. Norma Wrightly was elected as a member of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Committee.

This is an exciting time for our Church in which we can vision by joining with like-minded congregations and individuals to live our faith in new and creative ways. So far there are clusters for youth groups, the UCW (Areas/Presbyterial), and Healing Pathway. Networks have formed for Ministry Personnel, Prayer Shawl Ministries, and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. This is not a total list, but an example of how we are growing together in this new structure.

The Regional newsletter comes out every week and can be accessed at: <https://eoorc.ca/news/>

Visit <https://eoorc.ca/> to find out more.

Submitted by Norma Wrightly

### **TRINITY ON TUESDAY**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbour as yourself.”

While this was the over-arching theme for Vacation Bible School this year, it could be the theme for Trinity on Tuesdays.

Everyone is welcome to come and share in a time of worship and a simple meal. That does mean EVERYONE--that does mean you.

Most of Jesus ministry centred around food, so it is a natural fit to combine worship and a meal together. And like Jesus ministry—all are welcome. I have to tell you that people like and respect Reverend Christopher. They appreciate his prayers and his message and have found strength and solace from them, and they enjoy his sense of humour, but they love Daisy. Each week her musical talent helps gather us in for our time together. I am amazed at how many folks know more that the chorus to “Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.”

Prayers for the People requests are usually a page long. People are not shy about their prayer requests and regularly include family, friends, folks who have come to Trinity on Tuesday, our community, our country and for situations in the world and for our earth. I have been brought to my knees more than once with the sincerity and concern that is expressed.

Trinity on Tuesday has been able to be self-sustaining because of the generosity of those who show up and those who help out. Thank you for your support for this important ministry.

Submitted by: Norma Wrightly

# SUMMER SERVICE SURVEY

**A survey was taken after the final summer service.. These were the results:**

1. Did you appreciate the services this summer to be in the church hall?

Yes – 16 comments were...

- Yes I did
- It was nice to have it in the hall
- very much
- yes more relaxed and friendly
- sure did
- very much!!
- Yes, very much (2x)
- cooler, nice to be at a table

2. Members of the Spiritual Leadership Team lead the services in August, Would you have preferred to have a Minister provide the pulpit supply?

-4 were positive comments. 1 said they would have preferred a minister, and 1 said they liked it when they went to Westminster and really missed going there.

Positive comments were...

- Was away but the last service was well thought out and delivered in a very competent manner Good Work
- They did a great job (x2)
- well done, delightful
- Spiritual Leadership Team did a very good job
- Spiritual Leadership team did a great job and look forward to their participation next year!
- They did a wonderful job, congratulations to all
- Lay participation should be encouraged
- They did a wonderful job

3. Did you enjoy hospitality provided before, during and after the service?

Yes – 15 comments

- Sure did, now I'm spoiled
- yes, that was fun
- yes, that routine worked well
- I enjoyed the hospitality
- did not take part

4. Is there anything you would like to add?
- Can hear better in the church hall
  - All services worked well
  - Could start the summer services at 10 a.m.
  - Hope to do it next summer
  - Get more people here
  - Sound is better downstairs
  - More people to join us
  - Enjoyed the different style of services
  - Back upstairs sooner!!!

Submitted by Heather Quinn

## RAINBOW SABBATH

Many people have asked me why we hold Rainbow Sabbath. They ask why the members of the LBTGQ+ community cannot just come and worship on Sunday just like everybody else. My answer to them is – they do. Members of the LBTGQ+ community know they are welcome on Sundays and some do come.

Rainbow Sabbath is more than worship. It's a **SAFE** space for members of the LBTGQ+ community and their allies to come and join together to partake of a potluck meal, discuss concerns and pass on information. It is fellowship. **All** are welcome. If you want to show your support and would like to join us, the Rainbow Sabbath is held the **second Friday of the month** in the Fellowship Hall at **6 p.m.** Please Come. You will be welcomed!

## Over 20's Group

Early in 2019 a group of people got together. We were trying to figure out how to get to know people. We decided that perhaps a **social** group would help so we started the Over 20's group. **Everyone** is invited and will be welcomed. **We All** decide together what activities will be happening. One month we might play board games, another we may play cards, there's a movie you want to watch, we can probably do that.... A road trip may even be in the realm of possibilities. We are open to ANY and ALL suggestions, Well... within reason that is... We have a snack food potluck... It is FELLOWSHIP with people that we don't normally see on a social basis. Can come this month but not next... no problem, it's not a membership. The invitation is here... Come and Join in the fun... **YOU ARE WELCOME!** Over 20's group is held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 6:30 pm.**

Above submitted by Heather Quinn

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The Episcopal Church  
welcomes everyone. (Cartoon  
by Inherit the Mirth)