

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

41 Market St. N. Smiths Falls,

December 2017



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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.” Mark 13:24-27

Advent has always been perplexing. Every year, we pretend that Christmas has not already happened so we can pretend to wait in anticipation. We speak of the coming King, born in a manger, knowing all the while that the event to which we look forward already took place long ago.

The Gospel of Mark speaks of a coming calamity and a hope to follow - a scattering of God’s people and a subsequent gathering up. It is accepted that the Gospel of Mark was written very shortly after the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. The calamity, therefore, has already happened by the time the story predicting it is written. The first readers of this Gospel, therefore, are not living in a time of anticipation but in a time of gathering... just like us.

Trinity is home to many people and families who have fallen out of the habit of fellowship. Some are busy with the multiple demands of living and life. Some have experienced a kind of calamity; their health has taken a turn, they have been hurt by somebody in the church in one manner or another or they have become

disillusioned or frustrated.

Those who experience Trinity as Home and desire to make Trinity a home for others may view Advent not as a time of anticipation but as a time of Gathering. Let us not wait. Let us engage fully the work of seeking, calling and encouraging those who are scattered. Let us make Advent a season of action. By all means and any means, let us throw open our arms in welcome and bring our Sisters and Brothers Home.

Bless You,

Christopher



REPORT FROM COUNCIL

The Teams need constant refreshing of new people to bring a different perspective and new ideas. An Invitation to Volunteer Ministry in this edition sets out opportunities for the readers to consider sharing their time in service of Trinity. This past September we welcomed our new Minister, the Reverend Christopher Ryan and his wife, Lorraine, into our church family. In their short time here we have been introduced to new initiatives, Trinity **Tuesdays and Christmas card writing**. We look forward to continuing our pilgrim journey with them. Church Council meetings are open for all. If you are curious about how church business is conducted, please feel free to attend. Watch your bulletins for meeting dates or check out our website -

www.trinityunitedsf.ca or like us on Facebook.com@TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls

Wishing you blessings at Christmas and always –



From Under the Hat,
Jan Montgomery
Council Chairperson

INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER

Connect-Inspire-Serve

Trinity has exciting opportunities for many aspects of Church Life.

EXISTING AND UPCOMING VACANCIES

to serve on the following Teams:

Christian Community (Caring Ministry)

- Chair: Cynthia Sirett

Be part of a Team that visits regularly at the Retirement/Nursing Homes, home visits, keeping tabs on those missing from church by phone or card writing.

Stewardship (financial sustainability) –

Chair: June Pevere

Stewards communicate with the congregation about our shared ministries at Trinity to maximize the gifts God has made available to us. In addition to new members, Stewardship Team is seeking a Fundraising Coordinator to assist with planning and scheduling fundraising events. That sounds like fun!

Ministry & Personnel - Chair: Judy Drummond

This Team is a consultative and supportive agency for the staff and for members and adherents of the congregation. This Team conducts an annual review and evaluation of effectiveness of staff.

Communication: Audio/Visual Tech –

Bill Dickson

We are looking for more technicians to

run the audio/visual equipment for our Sunday services. If you have an interest in serving Trinity in this ministry, let us know. This job would suit students looking to complete their mandatory volunteer hours. Besides it is a cool job!

Outreach – Newly formed. Seeking members, one of whom will assume to Chair the Team.

This Team provides leadership in assisting the congregation to understand and engage in God's mission particularly beyond the walls of the congregation. They are dedicated to supporting individuals and organizations locally, nationally and globally. Areas of interest would be living the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Report, becoming an Affirming church and other such justice issues for all people and all of creation.

Nominating – Jan Montgomery or Marguerite Cameron

This Task Group of Council seeks eligible persons with skills or interest in serving on Council, Teams, Board of Trustees and Lay Representatives to Presbytery. Matching skills of the congregation members to areas of service and need is a satisfying job and it is available for you! Efforts will be made to provide training on all Teams through resource material, workshops and/or online webinars.

You may wish to assist a particular Team with small tasks rather than commit to serving as a full member of that Team. Let us know where you may be interested in helping out.

Please consider sharing your time and talent by contacting:

Jan Montgomery 613-812-1881 or jmontgomery827@gmail.com or Marguerite Cameron 613-283-7438

WHY I LOVE TRINITY

I love coming to worship with you as brothers and sisters. We are a family with all the dynamics that families imbue. We care about each other. THIS IS HOME.

We all share our love of the church and in this way we give to support it. Through my offering, I give to support this beautiful space, its cleaning, repair and maintenance. I give to support the paid salaries of our Minister, Church Secretary, Custodian and Music Director.

But more importantly I give to support the various ministries living out our mission in this place, in our Town and beyond – Community Outreach, Caring Ministry, Worship, Bible Study, Children’s Ministry, UCW, Men’s Breakfast Club, Communications to name a few.

I am thankful to associate myself with this Church as we dedicate ourselves to our mission to Connect, Inspire and Serve in the love of Jesus.

Let us sing Thanksgiving.

This has been my Brief but Spectacular Take on why I love and give to Trinity.

Jan Montgomery

Council Chairperson

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees held its most recent meeting on November 16, 2017. Here is an update:

Financial Report

The total Balance of “Funds Held in Trust” as of October 31, 2017 is \$215,306.00. Since the last report the following transactions have taken place:

Deposits – Bank deposits bank interest \$1.00, Bequest \$241.00 & Insurance Claim Payout (Roof) \$7, 088.00. BMO Investments Portfolio interest and dividends earned since August 31, 2017 \$592.00.

Disbursements since the last report were Scotia Bank, bank charges totaling \$6.00. The transfer of roof insurance claim to Capital Account \$7,088.00

A Summary of Investments as of October 31, 2017 is as follows:

The Trustee’s Investment Savings Account at Scotia Bank is \$12,529.00 (this total includes \$6,000.00 remaining as a General Fund cash flow contingency)

The balance in Trinity’s BMO Wealth Management Investment Portfolio is \$176,777.00

\$20,000.00 investment in of Trinity’s Gift Card Program

Season Shortfall loan (repayable)to General Fund of \$6,000.00

The total balance in “Funds Held in Trust” of \$215,306.00.

Investment Strategy “Funds in Trust” 2018

BMO-Nesbitt Burns (The Graham-Dixon Group) in Perth provides professional advice

and investment portfolio management to assist in executing our investment responsibilities. A meeting with the Graham-Dixon Group was held November 16, 2017 to review our portfolio and consider recommendations moving into 2018. Trustees met on November 30, 2017 for a full discussion and decision on any adjustments to the portfolio to be reported in the Trustees 2017 Annual Report.

Legacy (Planned) Giving

Trinity did receive a Legacy Gift since our last article for the Communicator. It was the balance of a bequest made to the church in 2016. The congregation and community at large have benefitted greatly from the many financial gifts that have been made to the church through the Legacy/Planned Giving Program. Information as to the various ways that you can participate in the Legacy Giving Program, and the potential benefits available to you as a donor, are available at the church.

Bell Avenue Property – At Council’s direction, Trustees obtained a potential listing price (\$270,000.00) for the property. Trustees have received an expression of interest from owners whose property backs onto our Bell Ave. They want to buy a section of the property. Trustees are assessing the various options associated with a potential sale of the land and will provide a report to Council in the new-year.

Church Insurance 2018 – The Church’s insurance policy has been renewed with HUB International, the carrier for the United Church of Canada General Insurance Plan. The coverage remains the same and the premium has not changed (\$8,327.00 + taxes).

Bob Swan, Chairman of Board of Trustees

TREASURER’S REPORT

Christmas is a time when we remember friends and a time to share some of our resources. I hope it will also be a time to remember your church and all it means to you

In some ways this has been a challenging year but as usual, the congregation has renewed its response as a caring family. We have the usual shortfalls at this time of year but I am confident that we will end the year in a positive light. Trinity is surely an active and innovative church and you have again shown your support. Now I hope that you will help to end the year financially successful and that you will remember your church as

you review your stewardship support. I welcome your contributions as you have done in the past.

My very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Arnel W, Pattemore, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Committee is moving along quite well this year so far. As most of you know, there are lots of changes going on in the church. Some are easier than others. Budgets are front and center at the moment, as well as repairs, but I’m sure everything will come together eventually. We are looking for more

members including a Fundraising chair. Please let a member on the committee or the minister know if you are interested. Chuck Kempt is a really good addition, good with numbers, really helps.

We have the Shout Sisters holding practices in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights. Cooking lessons from Smiths Falls Community Health Centre are being offered during Nov. – Dec. So good use is being made of the church.

Sing for Thanksgiving, the congregational giving program like Salt and Light, is coming up shortly, a large project for us. The gift cards are still available at the top of the stairs, please don't pass them by, they are a big help to the church funds.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
June Pevere, Stewardship Chair

LIGHT REPLACEMENT IN THE SANCTURAY

The lighting in the sanctuary is made up of Incandescent and compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs they are older technology and many are burnt out. These types of lighting are prone to high energy draw and short life, both result in higher operating costs for Trinity United Church. Your Property Team met with a representative of Hydro One offering an energy saving program that will benefit Trinity. They have offered to replace all the lighting in the sanctuary with new Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology, which

er energy draw (by as much as a 1/3 of the power requirement of our current lighting) and a significantly longer life. The cost to Trinity for all the lighting including installation and disposal will be \$0.00. We have agreed to the program and are waiting for a call from the installation crew.

Chuck Kempt, Stewardship

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

The Spiritual Leadership Team has been very busy.

We celebrated World Wide Communion using breads from different parts of the world.

Forty-nine copies of More Voices were placed in the pews thanks to our congregation. Ten copies were purchased by the choir.

Tuesday Night Services have started, each begins with a simple supper. Please refer to Calendar of Events on the back page.

Rainbow Sabbath has resumed on the second Friday of the month. This is a great evening for the LGBTQ, their friends and allies. It begins with a potluck supper followed by spiritual readings and meaningful discussions.

We participated in Aboriginal Reconciliation by our participation in the Postcard Campaign, "Let's Walk the Talk" of Bill C-262. We

are also looking forward to celebrating Aboriginal Sunday in the Spring.

Advent and Christmas have arrived. We were happy to participate in *The Sounds of Christmas* at Bethel Pentecostal on Nov 19. A potluck lunch and writing of Christmas cards was a great way to reach out to our church community and beyond on Nov. 26. The first Sunday in Advent was Dec. 3. We remembered The National Day of Mourning and Action on violence against women with Erin Lee from Lanark County Interval House as our guest speaker. December 10th will be the White Gift Service and Christmas pageant. We will be having the morning service on the 24th. For details of Christmas Eve services, see Calendar of Events .

We continue to look for opportunities to engage our Youth. We are hoping to have the next family meal and movie night in February 2018 and the start of our adventure plans for hiking the Rideau Trail – Tip to Tail have begun. We are looking forward to the opportunities that await us in 2018 as we Connect, Inspire and Serve. On behalf of the entire Spiritual Leadership Team have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Heather Quinn, Chair



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Membership and Welcoming

Trinity United is always wanting to keep CONNECTED with our church family. **If your address has changed or your phone number or if you are only using a cell phone, please advise the church office (613-283-4444) of these changes.** If you would like the church to have your email address, please tell us. Many notices of coming events are sent out in emails.

By Christmas, the photo directory will be completed. Thank you to everyone who participated. Many people were very pleased with the service from Prestige Images and Al Foubert.

Caring Ministry

In the new year, we will be exploring 'Healing Pathways' as presented to us by Barb Loynes from St. Paul's United in Perth. In a safe community, the intention is to be fully present in God's unconditional love and thus promote opportunities for healing through balance and harmony within the energy system. We are being INSPIRED.....More to come.....

May your spirit be light with Hope.
Your heart filled with Joy
and your holiday be Blessed
with the Glory of God.

May His love bring you Peace at Christmas and always.

Cynthia Sirett, Chair

UNITED CHURCH WOWEN

The Candy Cane Bazaar was held on Nov. 4. Thank you! It was a wonderful success. Many people work for days, if not months, to make this a bazaar to remember. Take note of this for next year and plan to do some shopping and enjoy our fabulously, delicious lunch.

On Dec. 6th there was a prayer service for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. This was hosted by the Smiths Falls Women's Inter-church group and held at Trinity in the sanctuary.

Later that day the UCW hosted a pot luck dinner, worship and program to close out our year. Our guests came from St. Paul's, Perth, St. Andrew's, Lanark, and Bethel, Rideau Ferry. What an enjoyable evening with lots of laughter, conversation, prayers and song.

On Dec. 10th there will be a planning meeting after church. We set our budget and plans for 2018.

Merry Christmas to all and thank you for your support.

Submitted by Linda Stronski & Norma Wrightly, UCW co-chairs



COMMUNICATION TEAM

Our **mandate** is to publicize and promote Trinity's services, events and activities to a diverse audience both within the church and the neighbouring community. We have been producing three printed Communicators a year, regular updates of the Church's website and up to date Facebook. The Communicator is also posted on our website. E-newsletters have been sent as electronic messages to the congregation highlighting specific activities and Trinity News by the church secretary.

The Communicator is distributed in church two Sundays before Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Articles in word format are solicited by the editorial team from Council and members almost a month before these special occasions. We like to see a new column of "**Letters to the editor**" in 2018 Easter Communicator. This will be from members of our congregation sharing their thoughts, ideas and suggestions on happenings at Trinity. We suggest these be in the 150-200 words range, written in word format, and emailed to : communication@trinityunitedsf.ca. As usual, all letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. The submission date is Friday, March 2, 2018. In the future, we hope to have outdoor signage and posters to promote Trinity events.

Chris Dickson has been downloading Sunday reflections, poems and stories used in the services on **YouTube**. Number of viewers has been encouraging. We would like to acquire an external hard-drive for downloading more material and archiving important ones.

Our announcers have been doing a fine job. It has been suggested that some announcements and events could be incorporated into Facebook.

Talking about Facebook, we are looking for more people to help provide content relating to: young families with children, young professionals, the environment, health and other areas of discipleship and stewardship.

We'll be happy to talk about our other visions as embedded in our budget requests.

Here are members of your team:
Announcers: Diane Bennett John Chatwood and Tom Foulks

Editorial team: Arlene Hunter, Mary Joynt, Daisy and Peter Au.

Communicator assembly, and distribution: Marguerite Cameron and volunteers.

Facebook: Chris Dickson, Arlene Hunter, Norma Wrightly, Diane Bennett

Website maintenance and update:
Chris Dickson, Diane Bennett and Karen White

YouTube: Chris Dickson.
Please join us if you are interested.
You can contact us at : communication@trinityunitedsf.ca

May great joy and happiness be with us as we rejoice in His birth!

Peter Au, chairperson

TRINITY'S HONOUR ROLL

Below is the reflection presented by Mr. Blake Seward in our Remembrance Service on November 5. Mr Seward is a multi-award local history teacher whose Lest We Forget project has been adopted by schools across the nation.

Good morning reverend and members of the congregation. Thank you for inviting me to speak briefly today about the soldiers that are on the honour roll here in the church. Before I begin I want to express my sincerely sadness at the passing of Mr. Douglas Kilpatrick. The colonel as we called him was dedicated to the men and women who fought and served this country as did his father who was wounded at Passchendaele in 1917 as a member of the cyclist corp. You are missed Mr. Kilpatrick.

Approximately seventy years ago congregations across Canada took it upon themselves to honour the war dead. This was a process that was a repeat a decade earlier shortly after the Great War. For many of us we are familiar with Kenneth Spooner who is one of nine Canadians to receive the George Cross. Gerald Dawson, who was killed on the approach to taking the city of Caen as a member of the Stormont Dundas Glengarry Highlanders in July 1944 is often overlooked because he is not a D-day casualty. For many, when we think of Normandy we only consider the first day and not the other 81 days of the campaign. Major Charles Edward



Slack was killed south of Caen in the heavy tank battles in the late stages of the infamous closing of the Falaise gap in August '44. He was killed instantly by an enemy mortar round that landed near where he was moving between tanks encouraging his men during *Operation Totalize*. Charles Slack was a member of the GGFG. His brother, Lieutenant Colonel William Slack was killed in Korea in 1956.

Norman Dalton Tysick was killed in December 1944 in what is often the forgotten front of the war – Italy. Tysick may well have been told he was a D-day dodger but those that fought there were well aware of how difficult the fighting was in the hills and valleys of Sicily and Italy. John James Saunders, a member of the Royal Canadian Artillery was killed in a traffic accident and is buried in Surrey, England. John Raymond Warren survives the war only to be taken by tuberculosis in April 1946 and is buried alongside John Saunders in Brookwood cemetery in England.

This congregation has soldiers that fought in the Great War battles of the Somme, Hill 70 and Vimy, and Passchendaele. William Benson Craig, who in September 1918 was last seen “heading his plane into the sunset never to be seen again” according to the war diary receives the Distinguished Flying Cross for the number of enemy aircraft he shoots down. On this wall are soldiers killed the defensive movements of the Hindenburg push in March of 1918. Wark is killed at the DQ line in September 1918 when Allied forces are quite

certain the war is going to end in their favour. Speight is killed in October 1918 just outside the city of Cambrai, France. John Arthur Connell would die of the flu three months after the war.

But today I thought I would share the story of George William James Hopkins who lived at 39 Lombard Street here in town. His father was from town and his mother Flossie Day was from Plum Hollow. Before the war Hopkins was a painter having left Frost and Woods factory because the money was not sufficient for his needs. He was adequate at sports and collected stamps as a hobby. Hopkins joined the RCAF and he began his training in what was the BCATP – the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan – which I believe is probably one of the top five most significant events to shape the Canada that we know. You cannot travel in any airport in Canada and not be walking in the footsteps of airmen of the Second World War. In 1940 approximately half of the entire Federal government budget was committed to the building of towns and larger urban centres that were built around these air training bases and Hopkins was a part of this. He moved from training centre to training centre before he was shipped over to England to continue his final training as an air gunner.

I thought I would talk about Hopkins because his story is one of mystery. On September 6, 1943 Connell was a part of a six hour cross-country training run heading west across southern England and Wales. The crew was flying in a Wellington III out across the Irish Sea. At 8:50 pm they took off making contact

every fifteen minutes with coastal command base until last contact at 1:43am on the 7th. They had vanished. The next day as aerial search parties combed the rough seas two bodies were spotted floating near the rocky coastline of Wales. The next day the body of Sergeant George William James Hopkins was found floating in the water. The rest of the crew were never discovered and no wreckage was spotted.

Hopkins is not connected to a specific battle or bombing raid. He was not shot down over Berlin or Hamburg. He was flying what was considered to be a reliable aircraft. In fact the Wellington was often called the indestructible aircraft because of how many shell holes could punch through the skin of the plane and still it would fly. No enemy aircraft were tracked in the area so it is unlikely that they were shot down which leaves mechanical problems as the suspect cause of the crash.

I thought I would give a little time to Sergeant Hopkins today because he was married just before he left for the war. He was loved and loved his wife Lillian. How much it must have hurt to be married so briefly with all the potential of the world and life in front of them only to be dashed by a failed training run over the Irish Sea. Another reason I wanted to give some time to Sergeant Hopkins today is that when he died he was only 19 years old. He was married at 18 and enlisted when he was 18. This hits close to home for me because my son is soon to be 18 and he feels the power of youth in his veins – as I suspect did Sergeant George William James Hopkins. Lest we forget.

PHOTOS FROM CONVENATING SERVICE, DEC. 3, 2017



Rev. Ryan with guest speaker Rev. Alan Hall



CALENDAR

December 21

O F

E V E N T S

December 24



10:30am Regular Worship
4:30pm The Christmas Story -
Children's Service
7:30pm Lessons and Carols
10:30pm Candlelight Communion



Trinity Tuesday

Alternative Services : 6:00-7:00 pm

Easy Supper at 6:00 pm Program to follow; Fellowship Hall

1st Tuesday –RELAX - All Ways. Any Ways, Trinity Fits

*Something like Sunday, Someday unlike Sunday,
Come as you are, come as you can, Your Worship Your Way*

2nd Tuesday - COFFEE HOUSE - Art Based - Comfortable, Quiet,

*Chill Come and Chill Up the Hill Wifi, Art and Coffee
Perhaps a song, we'll hum along, Spirit led, format free*

3rd Tuesday– MESSY CHURCH - Biblical Craft short celebration

Story, prayer, song and games Is for, and includes people of all ages

4th Tuesday - JESUS JAM Bring an instrument Play as you feel

*led Learn as you want Teach as you are able Listen and Enjoy
Brief devotional and prayer*

5th Tuesday - Program provided by Council Teams

Rainbow Sabbath

**2nd Friday
of Month**

**Potluck at 6pm
Fellowship Hall-
scripture reading
of own choice**



OTHER DATES:

February—Family Meal and Movie Night
- Host of Presbytery Meeting
Sun. Feb 25 -Annual Congegational Meeting.

March 2, 2018 Friday—Due date **Communicator**
March 11, Sunday, A Service of Blessing for
Farm Families.