

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

Smiths Falls, Ontario

Easter 2013





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

WoodChip #1

We are very fortunate. Over the past couple of decades, we have managed to have had almost every United Church Moderator here at our Church.

From Bill Phipps coming in 1998, marvelling at the fish swimming in the sanctuary, to Gary Paterson coming in 2013, celebrating and fostering youth ministry in our region and nationally.



We must be an exceptional site :) to warrant the attention of the likes of Mardi Tyndal and Peter Short. I am so grateful to be in a crossroads congregation where community and congregation are truly inseparable. Trinity welcomed Gary Paterson here on Sunday, March 17th. He is our national leader and is an incredibly dynamic speaker.

Trinity’s Anniversary Service May 5, 2013

In celebration of Trinity’s Anniversary, we are pleased to have members of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank join us in worship.

2013 marks the 30th Anniversary for the Foodgrains Bank. Since it was founded in 1983, it has provided over 1.1 million tonnes of food and seeds worth \$682 million to millions of people in 78 countries. It has grown from five members to fifteen churches and church based agencies representing 32 denominations across Canada. The United Church of Canada is one these members.

The mission of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is to end global hunger. This is accomplished by collecting grain and cash donations for projects submitted by 15 member agencies and their partners.

The projects they support provide food assistance to those with immediate food needs, work with communities to improve food security and help families and communities improve their nutrition. The Foodgrains



Bank also works to influence public policies necessary to ending hunger and engage Canadians

in efforts to end global hunger.

GREETINGS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

As we look to the challenges of 2013 our hope and confidence are buoyed when we consider what we as a congregation achieved in 2012. Community involvement, spiritual growth, a new organ, Playgroup, the creation of the STAY program (youth homelessness) and a balanced budget are only a part of last year's legacy.

This year will be very challenging financially. Our Treasurer projects a budget deficit that is considerable. We are challenged individually and as a congregation to increase revenue to meet increased expenses and to once again finish the year in a positive position.

Another challenge for 2013 is the attraction and involvement of young people in the life of Trinity. There is a need to invigorate the Sunday School program. Leadership in this area continues to be an objective for the Spiritual Leadership Team and the Christian Community Team.

A great big thanks to outgoing Team Chairs Dick Donaldson (Trustees) and Barry Mapplebeck (Ministry & Personnel). Your dedication and lengthy service on your respective teams has been very much appreciated. Your shoes will be hard to fill.

GREETINGS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Continued

At this time our past Chair, Bob Swan has agreed to serve as the new Chair of Trustees. We still need to fill the position of Chair of M & P. There are no other changes to our Team Chairs for the upcoming year. Thanks to all who have agreed to stay on Council for another year.

Council meets Tuesday April 23, June 18, September 24 & November 26. We are seeking a Vice-Chair and a Council Secretary. You are invited to attend any meeting.

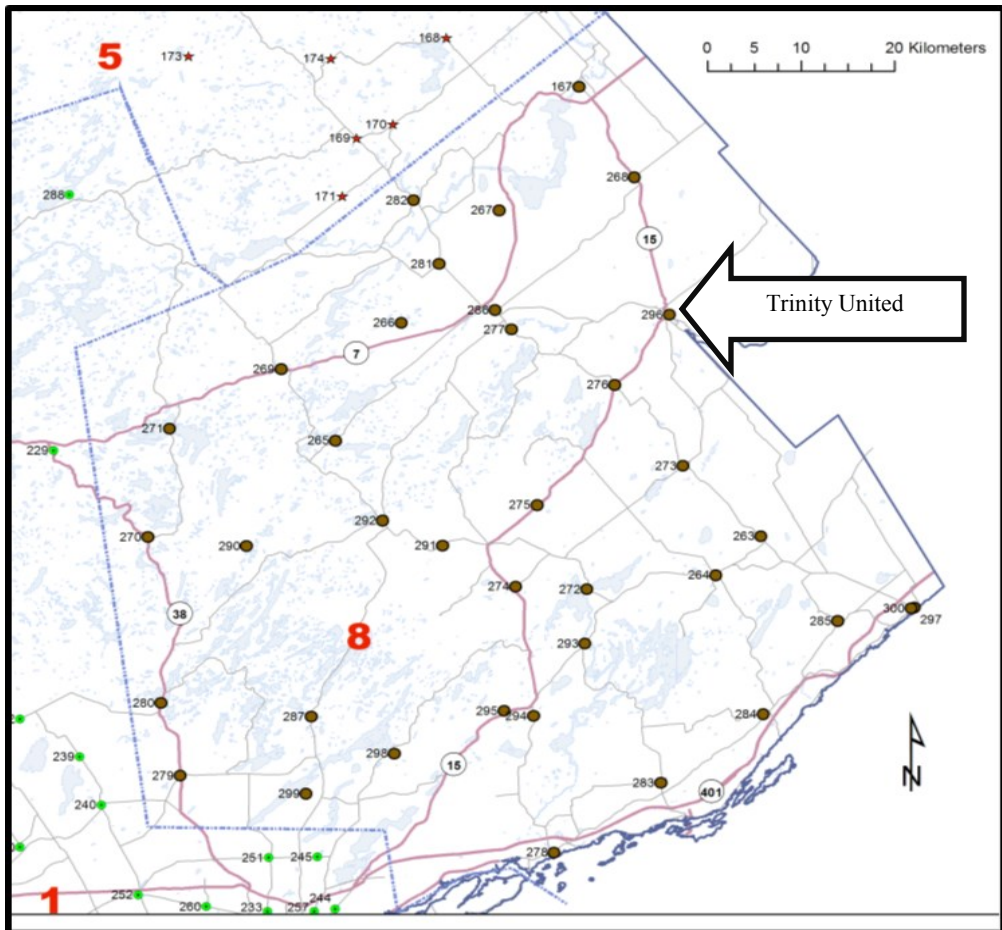
Wishing you and your families a blessed Easter.

Jan Montgomery
Council Chair



WoodChip #2

The evolution of our Presbytery has been fascinating to watch. For many years, we were part of Renfrew Presbytery. We are now part of the newly formed Four Rivers Presbytery (extending from Gananoque to Harrowsmith to Carleton Place...hope that makes sense!). New boundaries involved a great deal of patience and work as we sorted out many details. These new boundaries have had the tremendous benefit of unlocking some latent, and very positive, energy in our midst. People are excited about the pivotal work of Presbytery....so much so that we are getting lots of volunteers. Along with a great group, our own Grant Gililland was part of the implementation team to create this new model of working and sharing together.



Yoga in the Chapel

A small group meets weekly in the chapel area of the sanctuary with Carolyn Sutherland, of Orange Tree Yoga, to learn breathing techniques and basic yoga poses. It is a wonderful opportunity to unify body, breath and mind and find another way to feel spiritually connected to the sacred space.

There is no race to keep up, or time to feel inadequate. When your mind is protesting, "I can't do that pose", a calm voice suggests trying it another way or only going as far as you feel comfortable. After concentrating on each body part and stretching all those muscles and limbs for an hour, you walk away feeling a little taller, straighter and much calmer.

There is still room for more to join. All levels of experience are welcome.

Sessions take place on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. for \$10.00 per session.

Come take a look at the wonderful arches in the sanctuary from a whole new vantage point!



WoodChip #3

Death hovers around us throughout our lives. Our church community is often quite involved as we help each other through inevitable times of grief. I experienced this in a deeply personal way this past December with the death of my Dad. It was a traumatic and disorienting time....even for someone who has become comfortable with grief issues (when they are happening to other people!!). I found myself living in a bit of a fog through those long days in hospital and then the funeral et al. I learned a tremendous lesson from my Trinity family regarding comfort and support as so many people were so kind to me and mine. I am still overwhelmed by the depth of heartfelt support, and will always be grateful. I speak on behalf of myself, but also on behalf of my Mother and our whole clan. Thank you. Thank you.

Strangely, we have entered into a long winter with many other deaths. Our collective ministry in the face of so much grief is a critical part of our overall outreach to each other and our town. Funerals are always about life....life being lived in the face of death's reality. May we continue to uphold this profoundly important ministry as it is enabled by so many.

WoodChip #4

Brian Browne and I have been making music around Smiths Falls and far beyond for almost 10 years. We are at the stage where we have chosen to record another collection of tunes, and are taking some time through the winter/spring to prepare for a couple of recording sessions in March and April. Given the beautiful piano now in our sanctuary at Trinity, we are going to record the material live at Church. The Trinity Session is the name for now.

Lots of work, and lots of fun. The CD will be a fundraiser for Trinity this year. It has always been a pleasure to share this gift of music with Trinity, and I appreciate your openness to various spiritual/musical traditions. It is a special pleasure to turn this creative passion and music into something that will be of ongoing benefit to Trinity Church.



Confirmation Class



Trinity's Confirmation Class has been meeting regularly since February 25, 2013, and what a class they are. Ten young people are actively preparing to confirm their faith and become full members of the United Church of Canada. They are working towards this through prayer, conversation and activities under the leadership of the Rev. Peter Woods & Beth Hill with assistance from Lynda Daniluk and me, Norma Wrightly. In all the things we are doing, we are walking a faith journey whether it is laser tag, talking about inter-faith, or sharing food together. You will also notice that they are taking an active role in the worship services. On April 21 these young people, if they so choose, will be Confirmed during Sunday morning worship and there will be an opportunity to welcome them as we share cake in the Church Hall following the service. I know you will keep these young people in your thoughts and prayers as they seek their place in our faith community.

Norma Wrightly

WoodChip #5

As many of you know, I am in the midst of planning to be absent in the Fall for a sabbatical. With the support of the Council, these plans are unfolding and will include me serving in a volunteer capacity in a youth ministry on the streets of San Salvador, El Salvador with my good friends at la Iglesia Bautista Emanuel. I will keep you posted as this sabbatical becomes an opportunity for mission work alongside my close friend, Rev. Miguel Tomas Castro.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

A New Year is in front of us. We got out of 2012 through the generosity of our members and the hard work of our volunteers.

We had more roof problems with the high winds, but it has been solved and Lord willing we are good for a long time. We still have to replace the rads in the upper room and offices at a cost of \$3100.00.

The Grocery and Gas card program could still be improved with more participation.

The Gifts and Memorials Fund would appreciate more donations.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

continued

Mark April 13th on your calendar as the Stewardship Team is having a Mega Indoor Sale. (*Donations from the congregation and your friends will be greatly appreciated. We can accept "gently used" books, household items, DVD's, CD's, small working appliances, tools, linens, purses, toys, Christmas decorations, musical instruments, etc (no computers, televisions, large appliances/furniture please.)*)

The Congregational Spring Bake Sale, normally held at the mall will be part of this sale.

For other info on the sale contact Ron Stronski (283-3002) or Margarite Cameron (283-7438).



Thanks again for everyone's generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Haughton & John Murphy
Co-Chairs of Stewardship.

The New Crest for the United Church of Canada

In January, Trinity's pulpit hanging was replaced with one that displays the new crest for the United Church of Canada. The crest is the official signature of the church. It was designed by the Rev. Dr. Victor T. Mooney, and was officially adopted in 1944 by the 11th General Council.

For church members, this insignia is a spiritual and historic reminder. Its oval shape is derived from the outline of a fish, a symbol of identity for early Christians. The initials of the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour" spell the Greek word for fish.

The crest is designed in the form of St. Andrew's Cross with an insignia in each of the four corners. The "X" at the centre, the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, is a traditional symbol for Christ. In the four corners of the crest are symbols, three of which are particularly associated with the three communion—Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian—that united to form The United Church of Canada in 1925.

* The open Bible represents the Congregational Churches with their emphasis upon God's truth that makes people free. From this communion we have a heritage of liberty in prophesying, love of spiritual freedom, awareness of the creative power of the Holy Spirit, and clear witness for civic justice.

* The dove is emblematic of the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10) whose transforming power has been a distinctive mark of Methodism. Here our heritage is one of evangelical zeal, concern for human redemption, warmth of Christian fellowship, the testimony of spiritual experience, and the ministry of sacred song.

* The burning bush is the symbol of Presbyterianism. It refers to the bush that burned and was not consumed (Exodus 3:2), and symbolizes the indestructibility of the church. From Presbyterianism we have received a heritage of high regard for the dignity in worship, the education of all people, the authority of scripture, and the church as the Body of Christ.

* The symbols alpha and omega in the lower quarter are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They symbolize the eternal living God, in the fullness of creation (Revelation 1:8).

The New Crest for the United Church of Canada

Continued

The Latin words “*ut omnes unum sint*” that surround the symbols on the crest mean “*That all may be one*” and are taken from John 17:21. They are a reminder that we are both a “united” and “uniting” church.

In 1980, a French translation of The United Church of Canada—L'Église Unie du Canada—was authorized by General Council to be added to the crest.

In August of 2012, at the 41st General Council, The United Church of Canada acknowledged the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal peoples in the United Church by revising the church's crest. The crest changes include incorporating the four colours of the Aboriginal medicine wheel, yellow as a symbol of life and Asian people, black as a symbol of the south and dark-skinned people of the world, red as a symbol of the west and Aboriginal peoples, and white as the colour of the north and white-skinned people. The Mohawk phrase “*Akwe Nia'Tetewá:neren,*” [aw gway-- nyah day day waw-- nay renh] which means “*all my relations*” was added as well.

Written by Norma Wrightly



Doors Open

Doors Open will be on **Sunday, June 9th from 12:00 to 4:00p.m.** The theme this year is Cultural Expressions. This is a good chance to showcase our Church and Talents. If anyone is interested in a short term project, please call Linda Stronski at 613-283-3002.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Your Board of Trustees first meeting for 2013 is scheduled for April 11, 2013. The only new piece of business since the last meeting is the change in the Board of Trustee membership. I have assumed the role of Chairman and I will work hard to maintain the level of leadership that Dick Donaldson provided to you as Chair of the Board for the past 15 years. Unfortunately for all of us, Cindy Olsen has stepped down as a Trustee and Marilyn Blair passed away last summer. We will miss their expertise and support. We are thankful for their many years of service on the Board and to Trinity.

Fortunately, Stewart Graham, Muriel Dillabough, David Johnson & Ron VanMeer are continuing their service as members of the Board. So there is a lot of continuity (experience and knowledge) to keep the ship on course.

In case you did not receive a copy of the 2012 Annual Report, here is a summary of the Board of Trustees Report.

The Board of Trustees Financial Report for 2012 is too lengthy to be printed here; however a copy can be obtained from the Church office. The "Funds Held in Trust" by the Board are not substantial and there is a need to rebuild our financial resources should any major and unexpected capital expenses arise. On the positive side of things we do have the property on Bell Street which has been valued at between \$180,000 & \$200,000 dollars. This is a valuable asset when dealing with financial institutions and it is an asset that should only rise in value as time goes on.

The Trustees have provided a loan to the Stewardship team (finance) for the Trinity Gift Card program which is an important source of revenue for the General Fund. Your continued support of the Gift Card program is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated.

There were no bequests, contributions or donations to the Trinity's "Funds Held in Trust" program in 2012. Please keep Trinity's "Funds Held in Trust" in your mind as you consider your charitable donations for 2013. For information, on making a contribution (either as a bequest or planned gift), please contact the church office.

Bob Swan, Chair

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The UCW has been busy since the start of the year. We have been hosts for a Community Dinner to welcome new residents to Smiths Falls and neighbouring area in partnership with the Welcome Wagon and the Local Immigration Council. We also hosted both the Welcome Dinner and the Farewell Dinner for the Cultural Winter Camp of Xiangyang, our sister-city in China. We look forward to the Anniversary Dinner in May and the Strawberry Social in June.

The General meeting in February was delighted to hear some of Arnel Pattermore's adventures in traveling to remote corners of the world. His display of artifacts is also educational. We are lucky to have him as a resource.

Several ladies also participated in the World Day of Prayer program held at the Bethel Pentecostal Church.

The Friendship Unit meets the first Tues., New Horizons on the second Tues and the Joy Unit at Willowdale on the third Wed. There is a joint meeting of the Friendship and Joy Units on April 10. Ask any UCW member for details.

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Time
Holy Week Worship Marathon with Rev. Jim Warden in the Chapel	March 25, 26, 27, 28 & 30,	daily at 11:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper	March 28th	6:30 p.m.
Good Friday Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church	March 29th	10:30a.m.
Easter Sunrise Service; at Lower Reach Park	March 31st	6:30 a.m.
Easter Service	March 31st	10:30 a.m.
Mega Indoor Sale and Bake Sale	April 13th	8a.m.- 2 p.m.
Confirmation	April 21st	10:30 a.m.
Council Meeting	April 23rd	7:00 p.m.
Anniversary Service	May 5th	10:30 a.m.
Doors Open	June 9th	Noon - 4 p.m.

Ministry Team

The Members and Adherents of Trinity United Church

The Reverend Peter C. Woods, M. Div.

Mr. John Wanless, Organist & Choir Director

Ms. Gwenda Kinch, Church Secretary

Mr. Klaas Van Der Meer, Custodian

Trinity's Office Hours

Please take note of Trinity's office hours.

They are as follows:

**Monday - Thursday
9:00am to 12:00noon.**



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

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Beginning of Congregation 1832-First Church 1836-Present Church 1886