

# The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church  
Smiths Falls, Ontario  
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## **Wood Chips # 1**

Our heritage as a denomination is profoundly missional. We strive to connect with the world, and I feel blessed to be very much a product of our denominational culture. The latest iteration of this was my recent opportunity to serve on the leadership team for the Bay of Quinte Conference Mission Awareness Trip 2014 to El Salvador. I was able to use my improved Spanish language skills, connect with some fascinating Canadians who joined to make this pilgrimage, encounter some wonderful new and old friends at our mission partner church- Emmanuel Baptist, and also take a bit of a walk down memory lane.

I travelled to El Salvador back in the 1980's – at the height of the Civil War- and worked with Emmanuel as a volunteer during this time. This brief period of service and friendship has shaped my life and ministry in many profound ways, some of which I had forgotten in the midst of the busyness of life here in Canada. It was a profoundly affirming experience to go back and relive old memories in a dangerous time, and remain struck by the hard-working faith of my (our) dear friends in El Salvador, and especially at la Iglesia Bautista Emanuel.

As many who've been in church lately can testify, it has sparked some personal and theological reflections on mission

and service, as well as a reminder that faith and politics are always intertwined in the global community. A personal wake-up call for sure, but one I hope to share in some measure with Trinity in the months ahead. Our church is both local and global.... and both the global and local interests are so much better served when we don't forget this basic truth.

## **Wood Chips #2**

I am worried about our sense of global mission. Perhaps that is part of my choice of sabbatical destination (Mexico City), and my decision to help lead the El Salvador Mission Awareness event. Trinity has substantially reduced its commitment to mission work in Canada and beyond over the past 15 years. Our contribution to the United Church Mission and Service Fund has decreased by 30-40% during this time when costs have continued to rise. We are part of a national trend which is, in fact, jeopardizing our Church's ability to make commitments to congregations and projects around the world. This is having a drastic impact on our identity as a mission-based church. There are many reasons for this decline, including a disconnect between some of the national mission/service goals and local priorities/needs. I respect this critique, but am aware that price is currently being paid by overseas partners who have created wonderful ministries because of our historic support. The bottom line- our Mission and Service Fund is a well-managed global resource that is doing great work and does, in my opinion, deserve our full support.

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I dream of a church where mission is at our heart....and I believe I share that dream with most of you. Such mission may include shelter for youth in our region, and support for struggling congregations, and it also includes support for faith-based initiatives in far off lands....such as El Salvador. We need to start dreaming big again, or we will dwindle....first globally then locally. Perhaps the traditional M&S model doesn't work for you? Fair enough. To that end, we are exploring a way of placing us in direct relationship with our Mission Partner in El Salvador....direct giving to a clearly defined project sanctioned/monitored by our denomination, in a covenant relationship with deep roots. Apart from the good this project will do in the world, it will also breathe new life into our dreams of God's Kingdom. Please help us sort out the logistic details, ask the tough and practical questions, and help us build a relationship that will inspire our hearts and minds in the work of God's generous spirit. We will be doing it for the people who receive our help first and foremost, but make no mistake....it may also save our own souls along the way.

## Cal Pipil Youth Centre

The 2014 Bay of Quinte Mission Awareness Trip to El Salvador was life-changing for many of the pilgrims, myself included. In my case, it both took me back to an earlier phase of life and ministry, as well as propelling me forward in considering new ways to be churches without borders.

Cal Pipil, a youth centre founded by Emanuel Baptist Church stands at the heart of this recent experience. The words Cal Pipil come for the indigenous language of El Salvador, and they mean House of Kids. It was created in 2008, offering adolescents and young adults a creative forum apart from the violence which dominates life in El Salvador (especially for this age group).

It is a brightly decorated, painted by the youth, space allowing for guitar classes, English language instruction, Computer access, singing



lessons, and much more. A recent focus for the group has been developing an audio visual collective to make short films depicting the reality of life in El Salvador. One of these short films won a silver award in a film festival in Spain

## **Greetings from Council.**

In a summary report, it is stated that "Cal Pipil is led and managed by the youth who, through the classes and workshops, or learning to play a musical instrument, or through artistic endeavours, hope to transform the lives of those who are participating. The youth centre, located within 2 blocks of the church, is also an effort to reach the surrounding community, offering an experience which transforms lives and teaches positive values. Emmanuel Baptist Church hopes that each child, adolescent and young adult who participates in the Cal Pipil Youth Centre will learn to live out the values of the Kingdom of God."

The youth centre runs on a very modest budget, offering classes and opportunities when funding is available. Program costs for the facility are under \$15,000/year. The church and community have identified this Centre as one of their fundamental projects in bringing peace to their people in very concrete ways.

Our involvement, with a possible minimum goal of \$1000, would make a huge difference in this excellent ongoing ministry. It may also lead to creative connections between our churches and our youth, deepening our collective understanding of ministry.

Further to our Annual Congregational Meeting where the Council was directed to establish an action task group to develop a plan to enable Trinity to enter into the education and discernment process to consider becoming an affirming ministry within the United Church of Canada. I can report that such a team has been struck at the last Council meeting. Currently, those serving on this group are Rev. Woods, Norma Wrightly, Sue Newport and Ron Stronski. As our Presbyteries, Conferences and sister congregations have become Affirming Ministries, we anticipate the team will attend the workshops being offered and teach us about this growing Ministry.

At the time of the Annual Meeting, the financial review for 2012 had not been submitted. We anticipate the submission soon and there will be a Special Meeting of the congregation called to review and approve same within a regular Sunday service. Proper notice will be published in accordance with United Church of Canada Manual rules.

2014 Council meeting dates will be Tuesday, June 17, September 23 and November 25 at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.

## Wood Chips #3

'Affirming' is a buzz word you are going to hear frequently in coming months. At our Annual Congregational Meeting we made a decision to begin an educational process related to becoming an affirming congregations. Affirm? This is a movement and a concept with great depth and resonance in our United Church of Canada. We affirm all people as loved by God. We affirm that all people are called to act justly in relationships. Affirm is a good work, reminding us that it is important to actively support neighbours who are struggling for justice and equality. It is specifically, in our context, a word calling us to consider the faithful witness of lesbian, gay and transgendered people and their place within our community of faith.

The process of education is meant to be inspiring and cooperative. A group of us have begun to meet to discuss available resources and also to raise our own awareness regarding this particular part of our community, along with the broader themes of affirmation/inclusion et al. This is a good and reasonable process with opportunities for thoughtful critique and debate along the way, but fundamentally it is about opening our hearts to God's wonder as revealed in the full spectrum of humanity.

It is a conversation that will be happening for some time, please take advantage of opportunities as they are presented to you, and please be assured that no congregational decision will be made without ample opportunity to hear from you... you are the most important ingredient in this process.

## Introducing

### Laurie Duncan, Council Vice-Chair

Born in Iroquois in 1943, I moved to Hoptown at the age of 4 and went to school there throughout the elementary years, where I then graduated and attended the Perth High School, but quickly moved to a career in Trades as an auto mechanic. I married Joyce McInnes in Hopetown in 1967, where we went to the Hopetown United Church; a church I had attended since we moved to town as a young boy. We have two children; a daughter, Shari-Leigh, and a son, Shannon, who have since provided us with three beautiful grandchildren, Shae-Lynn, Jadyn and Rylan.



I was elected to North Elmsley council and served for 25 years respectively as Councillor, Deputy Reeve, Reeve, and eventually Warden of Lanark County in 1993. I was on the Lanark County Children's Aid Society Committee for 10 years and was President for 4 years during this term. I am proud to say that the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to me in 2013 for my many years of service in and around the community.

My years of employment have always been, and continue to be, in the auto service industry. I worked as a mechanic for a number of years at Town and Country Chrysler, advancing to Service Manager, where I enjoyed that role for 25 years before moving to Perth Chrysler as Service Manager for an additional 9 years. I am currently holding the same position at Perth Autobody, where I continue to serve the folks of Lanark County and surrounding area.

## Spiritual Leadership

Hi, Shelley Doucet here. I've recently taken over as chair of Spiritual Leadership. I was part of, and chaired for a time, a Spiritual Leadership team at my previous United Church. I am just beginning to get to know the others on this Spiritual Leadership team, and the routines. I thank those who are volunteering their time and talent, and I look forward to our interaction and a chance to serve Trinity and the community.

Most of you know my face from the choir so you already know that music is an integral part of my life. I am a French teacher at North Grenville High, working with grades 7 & 8. I am a stereotypical sandwich generation. I have a daughter, Gabby, graduating this spring from Radio & Television, Ryerson University. My parents are still living independently due to my father's excellent caregiving for my mother who has dementia. Visits to Toronto, and nearby Milton, explain why I am away an average of one weekend per month.

Let me highlight some of the current initiatives of Spiritual Leadership. A number of these have a youth focus which is particularly exciting..

On March 1st, under the leadership of Amy Blair, Linda Daniela, Wendy MacLean and Michel Gadoury, 9 youth participated in an Arts weekend that included visual art, drama and drumming. The date had to be reorganized, which meant fewer participants, but those involved indicate the day was a huge success. Many thanks to the organizers and leaders.

We have many activities planned through the Lenten season and Easter weekend. These are posted in the Sunday bulletin in more detail but include:

- A worship marathon lead by Jim Warden during Holy Week
- Palm Sunday Communion by intinction
- Maundy Thursday pot luck dinner and service in the downstairs hall
- Good Friday Service at Trinity together with Westminster Presbyterian
- Easter morning breakfast hosted by the Men's Breakfast Club @ 9 a.m.

On behalf of Trinity United the Spiritual Leadership Team has accepted an invitation to host the Annual Youth Conference, November 7-9. We anticipate up to 75 young people. This involves a good degree of planning as our church is well used by both our own committees, and the community at large, but we are excited for this opportunity to organize a successful venture.

Another youth initiative, in conjunction with New Horizon's UCW, is the Pitch-in clean up of the Bell Street property on Saturday, April 26th.

Camping Sunday is to be Sunday, April 27th. Our local Guides will be an integral part of that service.

And last, but certainly not least, the Spiritual Leadership Team has committed to a Mission and Service initiative connected directly to the Cal Pipil Centre. This is a youth outreach program run by Emmanuel Baptist Church in El Salvador. Peter Wood has some direct ties to the area and its people which brings it one degree closer to us. In a neighbourhood of many challenges the Centre offers youth both a safe haven and opportunities for engagement by exploring various aspects of the Arts.

Continue to listen for announcements, and read details in the bulletin, of all of the dates

Mentioned. Sunday services at Trinity United

Is just one aspect of our church. Many exciting and worthwhile initiatives are taking place in our community and beyond as well.

Shelley Doucett  
Chair, Spiritual Leadership

### **Report from Four River's Presbytery**

Four River's Presbytery called a special meeting on March 18 to review the Comprehensive Review Report: Fishing on the Other Side.

At that Presbytery meeting we were separated into four groups and each group was given questions to answer. Group one responded to property, Group two: oversight of communities of faith, Group three: oversight of ministers. The fourth group answered: connectional space (between churches and the national church). Each group reported on question 5 (listed below) as well as overall opinion & next steps.

“Question 5

*The task group has identified from its research, consultation, and prayerful consideration that the goals of the United Church are to :*

- *keep worship and the practice of our faith at the centre of all that we do, while maintaining important connections*
- *better reflect the realities of our church*
- *free up time and money (resources) from governance to mission and ministry*
- *support ministers and lay leaders*

- *provide a strong denominational voice*

### **Discussion Point**

*Overall, the ideas offered in this package would effectively meet the above goals and should be developed further as a basis for recommendations to the 42nd General Council (2015).*

*Strongly Disagree 1.....2.....3.....  
4.....5.....6.....7 Strongly Agree  
Your reasons/wisdom.”*

The responses for the first four questions were cautiously in favour. However, the overall response to question 5 was one with significant support.

We realized change is required; the *how* is more of a challenge.

Karen McLean, Presbytery secretary, will compile all the information and forward it to the proper working group of the United Church Canada

The report “Fishing on the Other Side” is available on the United Church Web Site.

Your Presbytery Rep, Bud Fawcett reported the outcomes of this meeting to Church Council on March 25. Copies are available upon request.

Respectfully  
Norma Wrightly, Presbyter

## **Art, Drama, Drumming: A Four Rivers Presbytery Youth Event**

"I liked the drama and everything it was so much fun. I feel sorry for the people that missed such a great experience."  
Terek

"I had a really fun time and learnt a bit about drama and art. I enjoyed the drumming. The sound of the drumming was cool as it echoed through the Church." Owen

"The afternoon was awesome. Art, drama and drumming: a way to express one's faith!" Sierra

This event held on March 1, 2014 at Trinity, included people from several churches. Amy Blair and Lynda Daniluk were facilitators for the art and drama segments, and Wendy MacLean and Michel Gadoury led the drumming segment, and Wendy helped with the worship.



During the first workshop, Amy provided instruction on how to approach drawing. The group drew in complete silence. I think I am safe to say, they learned to look at things from a different perspective.

The second segment, drama, was led by Lynda Daniluk. During the play, dramatic voices could be clearly heard. Finding one's voice is always good when you want to express how God is part of your life.

During the last segment we sat in the chapel. Wendy and Michel guided us in the diverse sounds our hands make on the various parts of the drums. We drummed to the words of Psalm 100: "Make a Joyful Noise."

During worship we read scripture and quotes. Our offering designation was the Mission & Service Fund. We closed with more drumming.

Thank you to the youth, facilitators, and leaders (especially Karen White) and to Jane Stott who loaned us her drums.

Until next time, keep on "making a joyful noise."  
Norma Wrightly

### **Treasurer's Report**

Thanks to a dedicated congregation we ended 2013 with a positive balance in the General Fund. However, even with very careful spending we are again operating with a deficit. The bad weather in January and beyond certainly did not help us.

A good way to help erase the deficit is by supporting the fund raising activities planned for the near future. Our Gift Card program continues to be positive but we always could use more participants. The cards that we have give you full value when shopping and can be used in stores anywhere. They do make good gifts especially for students who are away on their own. Please support the many upcoming fundraising events

led by Stewardship team.

We continue to use our resources responsibly. As Treasurer, I monitor our expenses and celebrate your contributions. I am sure that we will prosper and together will be able to operate without a deficit throughout the year. Let's erase the deficit NOW!

Arnel W. Pattemore, Church Treasurer

### **Stewardship Team Report**

A busy fundraising schedule is coming before the summer holidays.

- Our Bake Sale at the County Fair mall was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A concert with the Bowes Brothers on
- May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$10.00, available from team members or in the office.
- Our annual Geranium Sale is on-going. Order forms are available at church Sunday morning or from any team member. Plants will be available for pick-up on May 11, Mothers Day.
- Meat pies are still available.

We are in the process of acquiring a defibrillator for our Church. Klass is going to arrange a building inspection of the church so that we prioritize the requirements.

We encourage more members to participate in the PAR program of automatic monthly contributions. Forms are available in the office.

Thanks for your support,  
Fred Haughton and John Murphy--Co-Chairs.

### **Christian Community Team Report**

The Outreach Task Group has planned another community barbecue for August 25, 2014.

The Membership and Welcoming Task Group assisted with one baptism in March. Church Watch, a software program, will soon be functional and we will be able to start reviewing our church membership... thanks to Chris Dickson.

#### **Pastoral Care**

Do you enjoy visiting people? If you have some spare time you might consider being a friendly visitor on behalf of Trinity. We are a small group of three and would appreciate some help with this worthwhile ministry. Our aim is to visit people once a month who are in retirement homes and care facilities. For more information please speak with Norma Wrightly.

The Communication Task Group reminds you to "LIKE" us on Facebook.



*“As the new chair of the Christian Community Team, I would like to thank Pat Hull for her service to this team. Pat will continue to chair the Membership and Welcoming Task Group. Thank you Pat. Our Team consists of the Communication Task Group, the Outreach Task Group, Membership and Welcoming Group and Caring Ministry Task Group. I look forward to supporting these groups.”*

Cynthia Sirett

### **Men’s Breakfast Club**

Men’s Breakfast Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 am in the Goodlife Bristro Main St. East. Come and join us for good food and fellowship. We have around 15 men for each gathering and are usually disperse around 9: 15 a.m.

We are involved with the Breakfast Program for Duncan J Schoular School every Wednesday morning. About half a dozen of us and some ladies are involved.

This Easter, the Men’s Breakfast Club will be providing breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 20, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Christian Education Hall. Come and enjoy pancakes, sausages and maple syrup. Your free-will donations are welcome.

We are also working on other fundraising plans such as hosting a BBQ.

We would love to have more people join us.



## U C W Report

The UCW has been busy this year. The Stewardship meeting in February featured Arnel Pattemore's African Adventures. We participated at the World Day of Prayer service at the Free Methodist Church. Four Rivers Annual General Meeting was held at our church on March 13. Despite the terrible weather, we had a good turn out.

Upcoming events include the Anniversary Dinner on April 27 and the Strawberry Social in June. Watch for details to follow.

Linda Stronski

## Wood Chips #4

As I mentioned in the Annual Report, I am very grateful for the sabbatical opportunity I was given this past year. It was a fascinating journey around Mexico City, with cultural highlights (literature, music and theatre) as well as spiritual insights and learnings (Day of the Dead in a giant Mexican cemetery, Virgin of Guadalupe celebrations, indigenous Christmas traditions). It came with one big challenge- a fairly substantial health crisis while on my own in Mexico City (severe back pain which crippled me for a few weeks). This was unpleasant, to say the least, but also humbling and instructive as I made my

way back towards health slowly and altered some of my learning goals. It forced me to slow down, and perhaps get the rest I needed, forcing me to meditate rather than hustle. As I have said to many of you- I perhaps did not get the sabbatical I planned, but did get the sabbatical I needed.

Learning that has emerged from the sabbatical-

- Aging is not easy and pain can affect everything
- Health is fragile and I need to take time for preventative care
- Carolyn and I need time to ourselves in order to figure out our lives and our place(s) in family and work and faith.
- Latin culture is a place where I feel very much at home, and can function effectively and easily (including being very fluent in Spanish)
- Spirituality (for me) is revealed most profoundly through expressions of literature and music
- Building some personal meditative and spiritual practice will be essential to my ongoing ministry and health
- I love Mexico City....one of the most complex and challenging human collectives on the planet.

# Photos from El Salvator



**Cal Pipil, a youth centre  
founded by  
Emanuel Baptist Church**



Bay of quite, United Church of Canada Road Crew helped fund and actually build this multi-purpose facility in la comunidad 'Alegria' Montepique.... A beautiful addition to a beautiful community looking out on the historic/

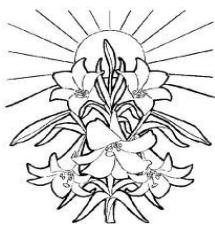


# LOOKING AHEAD

- Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> Early Communion:** 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.  
**Palm Sunday:** Communion by intinction, 10:30 a.m. service.  
**Palm Sunday Brunch:** Following the service, in the Church Hall.  
Menu: quiche, green salad, hot cross buns, tea and coffee;  
cost: \$5.00 per person, children free.  
Sponsored by UCW new horizons to help families with camp registrations.
- Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> Worship Marathon:** Apr 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.  
Rev. Jim Warden facilitating.
- Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday:** worship and pot luck dinner, 6:30 p.m.
- Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday:** combined Presbyterian/United service at Trinity.  
**Good Friday Procession:** information to follow.
- Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Breakfast:** 9:00 a.m. in the Church Hall,  
presented by The Men's Breakfast Club.  
**Easter Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. service.
- Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday after Easter - Camping Sunday.**  
**Food Bank:** please remember your donations to the Food Bank.  
**Ham & Bean & Scalloped Potato Supper:** Information to follow.
- Apr. 29<sup>th</sup> Music and Meditation:** 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



**TRINITY  
UNITED CHURCH**  
*Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada*



### ***Trinity's Office Hours***

*Please take note of Trinity's office hours.  
They are as follows:*

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



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