

# The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

Smiths Falls, Ontario

March 2015



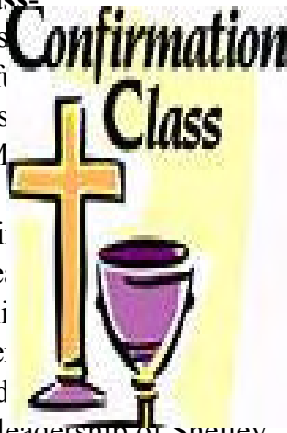
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## Wood Chips # 1

### Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class for a whole lot of fun another Spring session Confirmation on Monday. During the course, ages 7 and beyond, are invited to show thoughtfulness, creativity, and leadership on life at Trinity. This involves some laziness and fun. I look forward to our meetings with the leadership of Shelley Doucet and Norma Wrightly. Call me or the Church Office if you would like to jump on board! 613-283-4444



## Wood Chips #2

### Comprehensive Review

Our national church is waking up to the profound reality of our congregationalist identity. At Trinity, we have known for a long time that the defining, and most functional layer of the United Church of Canada is the congregation. For too long, we have been intrigued by massive super-structures of denominational life. Our inability to support these

programs and projects has finally caught up with us. This summer, at the General Council meeting at Cornerbrook, we are going to boldly come to terms with all this. It is going to be a very challenging event, hosted by our good friend, the moderator, Gary Paterson. The people behind the Comprehensive Review have drafted a proposal that is worthy of your attention. There are parts that make perfect sense, and there are elements that leave me very frustrated. I trust you will find yourself responding in a similar fashion. With that said, it addresses the need to reduce costs and administration nationally, while also hanging onto some sense of a pan-Canadian identity. Check it out at <http://www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report>

### GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

Since the last edition of The Communicator at Christmas, the Council met in January 2015 to review and discuss the budget. These discussions often divide along two camps - the "needs" of the Church and the "wants". Certainly the obvious need to upkeep our building is evident but we must not lose sight of our mission to serve beyond our building.

I thought for this article I would have a look at our website to remind myself of our mission and experience. I was amazed at the amount of material available including up to date bulletins,

pcoming events and past issues of The Communicator. Special thanks to the Team that continues to bring Trinity into the digital world.

As to reminding me of who we are and what we do, I look to the portion of our Mission Statement that say - "...we serve God, our members, our community and beyond." I saw too under *Trinity Serves* - "...Being present with people in our community who are dealing with illness of mind, body and soul." Under *Trinity Experience*, I read "...Witnessing to the good news being revealed in the lives of neighbours and citizens throughout our town and beyond."

In each instance, Trinity positions itself as being part of a much larger community to whom we minister to. In conclusion, as some see the updating of the sound system as a "want" there is a strong argument to be made that it is essential to our mission and our service.

The financial challenges for 2015 are no different than previous years. Many of the expenses are fixed and cannot be modified. The ones that have some wiggle room have been cut to minimum in order to balance the budget. The Council is in full agreement with this principle. So for 2015 it will fall to fundraising to deal with the immediate "needs" and consider the "wants".

At the Annual Meeting the Council was tasked with" giving consideration to replacing the roof with metal". Of course

Stewardship Team in consultation with the Board of Trustees. We must consider whether this would be a "need" or a "want".

In conclusion, I remind everyone that there are vacancies on Council, specifically a Chair for the Stewardship Team but also many places on various ad hoc teams to share your talents.

Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, March 31 starting at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary for music and meditation with the business portion following at 7:00 .

Consider this an inv

Blessing to all for E

From under the Hat

Jan Montgomery



**A MESSAGE FRO**

**R**

Again as a congregation we have shown our commitment to stewardship. Although 2014 ended with a deficit in the General Fund, it was still much less than we had anticipated. The budget approved at the Annual Meeting shows a decrease for 2015 but it is my hope that we can maintain a positive balance throughout the year. I am confident in our caring congregation.

In order to meet the budget expectations, it will be necessary to have a variety of

such action will be the purview of the fund raising events. Already we rely on your support of the Gift Card program. Plans are underway for a Mega Indoor

Sale April 25<sup>th</sup> that will include our usual spring bake sale. A concert is scheduled for our anniversary May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Watch for details on our annual Geranium Sale and for other programs.

I have proposed a Think Tank that will meet once during the spring to suggest ways to meet our budget and to raise funds for the church and for outreach. Details should be available shortly but in the meantime I invite offers to participate in this once only meeting. You may want to suggest names with the understanding they are under no obligation. If you wish, you can send me your ideas either by a note on a Sunday morning or by an email to the office. Together we can strengthen the church by meeting our obligations in spite of present economic stresses.

It is my pleasure to serve as your Treasurer and I invite your questions or comments at any time. Together we will succeed.

Arnel W. Pattemore, Treasurer

### **Wood Chips #3**

#### **Media**

We are a force on social media! Currently we have developed our presence on Facebook primarily, but are also trying to figure out Twitter and LinkedIn. An internet presence is such a challenge as

changes continue to happen all around us. Our

Website is excellent, but quickly out of date in some respects. Our email lists are helpful but need to be maintained. There are huge opportunities for promotion and advertising waiting for us there. There are some very thoughtful, skilled people who are involved in tweaking our media presence. They will be critical to our success in the year ahead.

Meanwhile, we also continue to televise our weekly worship service. This is a tremendous outreach that happens to extend far beyond Smiths Falls, thanks to Cogeco. Technology is changing there as well... a switchover to HD is soon required. I applaud our steadfast willingness to keep connecting with our viewers, many of whom are people with long connections to Trinity. Upgrades to our sound and video system have been an ongoing discussion over the past months, and we are getting close to making the needed changes.

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Stewardship Committee continues to attempt a balancing act between the structural needs of our church and limited re- sources.

Roof repairs, sound system replacement and a few other items are on our immediate agenda and with Arnel

Pattemore's professional scrutinizing approach we will eventually accomplish our goals.

With the help of the Spiritual Leadership committee, our congregation will grow and surely meet our needs.

Respectfully submitted  
John Joynt  
Acting Chair

#### WoodChips 4

The Easter season is a time for surprises. It takes Jesus into the abyss of the human heart, and leaves him there, shockingly, to die on a cross. It then dares to add a chapter to the story. The postscript is equally alarming. The body is gone. People have encountered the man they recently saw as he was executed. Some are brave enough to speak of what they've seen. Others simply hide together and dream of getting back to the hills of Galilee. Even there, in their locked rooms, Jesus' spirit brings new life after the grave.

Being faithful in this Easter season requires a willingness to allow the shock and alarm...the surprise....to find a new place in our lives. It is not a comfortable or easy holiday, but the palpable tension makes it one of the most intense and exciting moments in the Christian calendar.

We have lots going on, including :

- A different youth bible reader each Sunday of Lent

will be served at this service.

Brunch following Palm Sunday service, hosted by New Horizons Group, UCW.

- Meditation with Jim Warden, week of March 30.
- Proclamation Reading Week – Hosted by First Baptist Church - a reading of the entire New Testament from Sunday March 29-Thursday April 2
- Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> potluck and Seder supper @ 6:30 pm in the lower hall
- Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> joint service at Westminster Presbyterian Church which will include music and Peter W
- Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> at I 6:40 am shar to help set up 6:30 am. Bri



## **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**

John Wanless and Shelley Doucet attended a weekend workshop organized through Kanata United Church and featuring Scottish Iona speaker and musician John Bell. Hopefully, we can incorporate some of his fantastic psalms, songs and ideas into Trinity's rich musical heritage.

Laser tag and a pizza party were enjoyed by eight youth plus adult accompaniment in February. Good fellowship and some competitive spirit made this a very fun outing.

The Affirm Team continues exploring the theme of inclusiveness. On January 18, the film 'Anyone-Anywhere' was shown and discussed after a potluck lunch.

Christopher Ryan, military chaplain, stepped into our pulpit February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was a dynamic speaker and we hope he can guide us through a service again in the near future.

The audio-video system in the sanctuary will be upgraded, at reasonable cost, in the near future. Quotes are still being researched and considered

If you would like a child baptized in the near future, the next baptismal date is May 10, Mother's Day weekend.

If you know of a young teen who is interested in exploring their faith, Confirmation-

classes are being organized. Please contact Peter Wood, Norma Wrightly or Shelley Doucet.

Many events are planned for the LENTEN SEASON and HOLY WEEK. Lenten Calendars are available in different formats to reflect on the season

Shelley Doucet

## **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEAM**

### **Caring Ministry**

This is a small group, who visit people in retirement/nursing homes on a regular basis. We are involved in their monthly worship under the leadership of Rev. Peter Woods and Judy Drummond (pianist). We also visit people in their homes or place a phone call for a chat.

At Easter, we will have cards, made by the Children's Ministry

Our group also hopes to distribute Prayer cards of anyone in need of us.



**Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry**

Our members are Barb Byam, Joanne Hunter, Darlene Nighbor, Sharon O'Neill and Norma Wrightly

### **Outreach**

The next Community Dinner at Westminster Presbyterian Church will be on March 22, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. Volunteers from Trinity United will help with food donations, serving, socializing and the cleanup. If this outreach project interests you, please contact Cynthia Sirett at [613-283-4295](tel:613-283-4295) for more information.

Cynthia Sirett

### **A Brief Report on the Showing of the DVD “ Anyone..Anywhere”**

I appreciated hearing from people from the local LGBTQ\* community.”

That was the overall view of people who attended the Pot-luck lunch/DVD/ Discussion on January 18<sup>th</sup>. People how social media can spread the word.

The DVD featured families and their reactions once their child “came out,” and how their churches either supported the entire family or didn't. The film was *dated* in that there was no one from the transgender bi-sexual, queer/questioning groups, but these issues

This USA documentary was filmed in the '90's, but, unfortunately, many of the same issues continue today, especially in smaller communities and within various Christian denominations. Folks told us that it wasn't easy to step forward and not know how you will be received—for who you are—as you are.

The Affirm Group hopes to be able to open the door for our understanding about what the issues are and how do we translate that into our Christian life as a church family. We will continue to provide opportunities :

series with the Rev. Dr. George Burdick DVD's, and other get-togethers we can make informed decisions.

Norma Wrightly

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, questioning



### **NEWS FROM TRINITY'S UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)**

We read in the book of Revelations, “Behold, I make everything new”. It is gladsome news to announce that there are some new things afoot in the UCW.

First of all, Linda Stronski and I are now *Past Presidents*, and with thanks, we are pleased that Marguerite Cameron has accepted the position as the



accepted the position of the new UCW President. Linda and I put our full support behind Marguerite and will help her anyway we can.

The UCW is pondering how to move forward, and are looking at the possibility of having fewer meetings, less

business, and more programs. Watch the church bulletin as to when the units meet and when the next general meeting will be. All women are welcome.

Speaking of programs, the February meeting is our Stewardship meeting, and Vanessa Bernicky was invited to be our guest speaker. Vanessa is responsible for recycling in Smiths Falls. She came with a wealth of information for us on what we can recycle and ways to do this as a church. She also took time to answer our questions and provided us with written resource material. It was an informative afternoon, which began with a worship service led by the Friendship Unit and ended with a time of refreshments and friendship.

From a wider perspective, it is great to announce that Linda has let her name stand for election to the position of Four Rivers Presbyterial President. This election will take place at the Four Rivers Presbyterial Annual Meeting on April 1, at St. Andrew's

forms will be out soon. It would be nice to have as much support there for Linda as possible.

Wider still, the Conference UCW Annual Meeting will be April 15 at Pickering Village U.C. in Ajax. The theme is "The Real Deal" and a Paralympic gold medallist will be the guest speaker. Registrations forms are available on the Bay of Quinte Conference web site. Our current Four Rivers Presbyterial president, Barb De Jeet has let her name stand for 1<sup>st</sup> V-P way to go Barb!

Wider yet, the National UCW's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2017 will be in Vancouver. The theme will be "Celebrating Spirit." Start saving your toonies and stay tuned.

Respectfully  
Norma Wrightly  
Past President UCW





### MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The Men's Breakfast Club continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 8:00 am at the Bistro which has moved to 5 Main St. W. Men of all ages are welcome!

The Comprehensive Review of the United Church of Canada was a major topic at our most recent session.

It is an opportunity for us to engage in a "Think-Tank" type of conversation as a congregation. It provides an opportunity for future generations.

Tom Foulkes

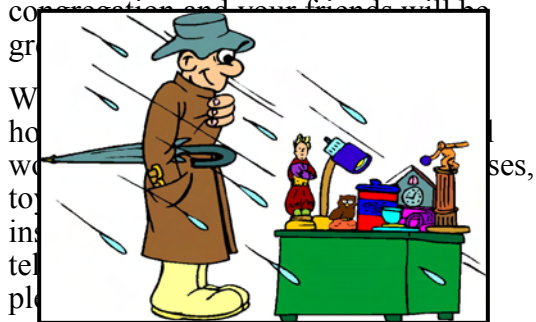


Do you know this cartoonist attended Sunday school here in

### MEGA Indoor and Spring Bake Sale

*Sat. April 25, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

A fundraising project to benefit the life and work of Trinity. Donations from the congregation and your friends will be



For information, please call Ron, Dick or Marguerite.

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

Please watch for further details

## UNITED IN GOD'S WORK .

This document is an abstract of a 2-page summary written by Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Chair of Comprehensive Review Task Group.

The Comprehensive Review Task force has released its recommendations in "United in God's work" for the 42 General Council 2015,

The report proposes that

- the church commit 10% of its annual givings to M & S fund to support new ministries and new forms of ministry.
- place a high priority on building a relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
- replace the current four-court system by a three councils model of communities of faith (congregations and new forms of ministry), regional councils (replacing Presbyteries and Conferences) and a denominational council (replacing General Council).
- establish a College of Ministers to accredit, oversee and discipline ministers.
- study the concept of Associations of Ministers
- reduce spending by at least \$11 million.

This comprehensive-review-report is about vitality in the church as well as financial and structural changes. All members are encouraged to read the report "United in God's Work" ,watch the short videos, and discuss the recommendations in their churches.

Peter Au



## ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND and KIM POLLARD CONCERT

Kim Pollard sang at church March 8 to give us a taste of what we can look forward to on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 7 pm. In celebration of Trinity's anniversary, Kim is our guest singer in lieu of inviting a guest preacher. You can look forward to an evening of unforgettable music from a dynamic singer.

**Sunday May 3, 2015**

Bringing  
Soul to  
The Blues

**KIM  
POLLARD BAND**

Cost of Admission: **In Advance: \$15** **At Door: \$15**

Location: Trinity United Church - Smiths Falls

Doors Open: 6:30

Starts at: 7:00

Tickets at:  
41 Market Street North,  
Smiths Falls, ON  
(613) 283-1111

## 2015 Holy Week Meditation with Rev. Jim Warden

10:30 am. At the Chapel

Mon. March 3	Contemplation Is For All
Tues. March 31	Contemplation and A
Wed. April 1	The Church Task
Thurs April 2	A New Task Of Liberation
Fri. April 3	Inter-Church Parade

**Readings from "Through The Year"**

by **Dr. Michael Ramsay,**

**former Archbishop of Canterbury**



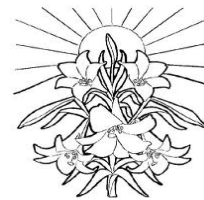
**TRINITY**  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
*Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada*



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

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

*Voice: 613-283-4444*  
*Fax: 613-283-4457*



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