

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Create opportunities for significant conversations with youth and younger adults about why the church may not be significant for them. Such conversations require a level of trust in which people can feel safe to express themselves honestly. That trust might need to be built over a long time.

8. "I don't like....."

Everyone's entitled to their opinion. And not everyone's is the same. But if your church's mission is driven by the tastes and preferences of your current members, it will decline and eventually die. Doing what is effective in reaching people for the Gospel is what matters, not the likes and dislikes of certain vocal, long-term members.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Constantly call the congregation to reflect on their mission, vision and values. Why are we here? Whom do we hope to reach? What do we need to do? Shift the focus from people's likes and dislikes to what will help the church be true to its own calling.

9. "We can't do that. People might leave."

Most of us don't like change. Some people will try to influence decisions by threatening to withdraw their money or attendance. If your congregation is serious about renewal, inevitably some people will be unhappy and might well decide to go elsewhere. But this threat should not be allowed to control the agenda of the church. Related to this is the statement

that "Many people" are not happy. Boards, ministers and congregations should have an unwavering policy that no complaint will be heard that does not have a name attached to it.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Communicate, communicate, communicate. When something new is tried, make sure it is clear why it is being done. Provide opportunities for people's concerns to be heard. Make adjustments when they are warranted. But stay the course. Don't allow a few disgruntled voices to shut down new ideas before they take root.

10. "Numbers don't matter."

Two things. We aren't likely to return to the 1950s when 6 out of 10 Canadians were in church on Sunday morning. And numbers aren't the only thing that matters. But when a church loses 5 to 7 percent of its members every year and does not replace them; and when there is no one in the congregation under the age of 70, it is time to pay attention to numbers! Christianity has always thrived where new people are being brought into the community of faith. We need to recover the sense of missional urgency – and fast!

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Set realistic targets and develop a concrete plan for connection new people.

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYMORE?

We've never done it that way before. If you do what you have always done, you get what you always got.

Jesus entire movement was something new. Try it, talk about what worked, what didn't work. Even a failed attempt will produce good learning with the right attitude.

The Communicator!

A Publication of Trinity United Church

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"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



GREETINGS FOR LENT AND EASTER TO EVERYONE AT TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

The sunshine is getting stronger, and despite a windy, drifting snow storm of a few days ago, we are energized for the advent of springtime. Even the changing time has provided extra daylight at the close of the usual work day.

With that extra light at the close of the daytime, I have found that I seem to have some energy for a few tasks that normally would be postponed for a day off.

Daylight plays a big role in creation. It is God's first creation. "Let there be light, and there was light" .

In Advent we lit candles as we moved through the story of creation to the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. In Lent we are lighting candles to remind us that darkness of the world cannot overcome the light, Christ, the Light of the World. In the five weeks of the annual ministry plan we followed a program called Salt & Light, and we were encouraged to use our saltiness and light to be about the ministries of Trinity United.

I look at Trinity United as being a light in the world around it. The building is set prominently in the downtown core, and as I have experienced people come to us to find hope and healing. We have people come to us who are in need of the necessities of life, and we help them.

We have people who are hurting in body, mind and spirit, and we are the reassuring word and shoulder of compassionate care. There are eager minds and hearts engaging the world through the light of scripture. People are hungry and thirsty for new ways to be "salt and light."

The light of Trinity shines brightly and will continue to shine with everyone's energy. Trinity has its light out searching for leadership who will partner with you so that your ministries will shine even brighter.

Last fall the Sunday School planted bulbs to plant in the flower garden surrounding the church. With the warmth of the sun and some tenderness, those bulbs will blossom for all to see and enjoy. We marvel at God's creation that gives us time to gather the energy we need so that with warmth and light we, too, can blossom.

"In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see" VU 703, Natalie Sleeth

Blessings for new life with Easter
2017! Rev Arlyce

of a couple of people could have a devastating effect on the congregation. This leads to a second and related problem statement

.....

4. "The best thing about our church is the choir"

Choirs can be a centre of health and vitality in a church. But if people's allegiance is to the choir, rather than the larger mission of the church, they can become a quasi-independent power group with their own executives and money disconnected from the decision-making structure of the church. Also, choirs are often the only remaining group that meets weekly, making them fertile ground for gossip and dissent. Choirs can become the tail that wags the dog.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Work with your choir to help them locate themselves within the overall ministry and mission of the church.

5. "People are on fixed incomes. They can't give any more."

Those who say this usually have little solid empirical evidence to back up their statement. Every church has some members who really can't give anymore, and they should never feel put down because of it. But most United Churches are nowhere near to maximizing their stewardship potential. People don't stop going to Tim Horton's when the price a large double-double goes up. Even those of limited means will increase their support if they believe in what the church is doing.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Intentionally build a culture of vision, enthusiasm and generosity.

Create opportunities for people to celebrate what their church is doing, and invite them to be a part of it through the gifts with which God has blessed them. Don't continually harp on financial deficits but accentuate the positives.

6. "We need a minister who will attract younger families."

Your minister may help to create a good first impression that will attract people initially. But it's the culture of the congregation – hospitality, energy, involvement – that determines whether they will become part of the family. A church that places the burden of growth solely on the minister's shoulders is setting that minister up for painful failure.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Constantly remind people that ministry belongs to the whole church, not just to the person who gets the pay cheque. Encourage people to find ministries that match their gifts and give them joy.

7. "Why don't our children/grandchildren go to church?"

I respond to that question with another question: Have you ever asked them? No one should be allowed to ask this question until they have had at least five extended conversations about faith and church with people of their children's or grandchildren's age, – conversation in which they do more listening than talking. (See my blog post "Why Don't Our Kids Come to Church?")

TEN THINGS CHURCHES SHOULD STOP SAYING –

by Rev. Paul Miller, Support Minister for Waterloo Presbytery, United Church of Canada. This article is taken from Facebook.

A couple of years ago, my wife decided what she would give up for Lent was complaining about being tired and overworked. Amazingly, she discovered that once she stopped telling herself how tired and overworked she was, she felt a lot less tired and overworked! Changing how she talked actually changes her reality.

We can say things often enough that they actually start to actually determine reality rather than just describe it.

Here are ten statements often heard in Churches that can negatively shaped the culture of a congregation. Even if they accurately describe your church, you should consider inviting people to stop using them.

1. “We are an aging congregation.”

Well, of course. Most mainline churches are aging. The problem with this statement is it is often used to justify inaction. It means, “Don’t ask us to do anything different, we’re too old and tired.” Repeated often enough, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Contrary to the popular adage, old dogs can learn lots of new tricks, but not if they keep telling themselves it is impossible.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Begin to focus on the assets that wisdom and experience bring, not on the limitations of tired backs and short term memory loss.

2. “Children are the future of our church.”

The statement is not necessarily unhelpful. It can remind churches that they need to pay attention to more than the older, long-term members. It can be unhelpful, though, if it makes people think that Christian education is only for kids. The odds that the children in your current Sunday School will grow up to be the core of your congregation are so long, they are barely measurable. Your children are not just the potential givers and volunteers of tomorrow, they are a vital part of your church today.

POSITIVE RESPONSE: Begin to develop a process for helping people of all ages become more faithful disciples of Jesus.

3. “People come to our church because of the outstanding music”

Music has the power to touch our souls and inspire us to great things. But if a significant number of people say they attend your church mainly because of the music, prepare yourself for a major exodus if that ever changes. High quality music programs usually depend on a handful of skilled individuals – an outstanding director, or a few strong singers. That can change in a heartbeat. If the only thing that is keeping many folks in your church is the current state of your music program, the departure

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT *CONNECT – INSPIRE – SERVE*

Spring is in the air and thoughts turn to new beginnings and rebirth. We spent 2016 as a Council and congregation revitalizing our vision for Trinity through the leadership of our Transition Team and our Interim Minister, Rev. Arlyce Schiebout. The Council is tasked with continuing the work started to align ourselves into best practices for a healthy and thriving congregation.

Just as Trinity has experienced a year of introspection, The United Church of Canada at its 42nd General Council proposed significant changes to the Basis of Union which will have a huge impact on many aspects of the United Church. At the time of this writing, Council is planning to meet, study and vote on four Remits before the pastoral charges on Saturday, March 18th. What is a Remit? See the submission on this topic elsewhere within this edition of The Communicator.

There is work going on to replace our Policies and Procedures Manual (2011) with a Governance/Organizational Handbook which will standardize duties and responsibilities contained in The United Church Manual – 2016, while the procedures are developed by each Team and appended to the Handbook. The Transition Team has recommended that Council be expanded by three Teams – Communications, Outreach and Property

which are currently Task Groups of Christian Community Team and/or Stewardship Team. Ever mindful of our Living Mission, discussion and discernment on this matter continues.

Our Easter journey from darkness into light is especially meaningful this year as Trinity moves into a new exciting chapter in its history with the expectation of a call for a new Minister. We have spent some time examining our past, defining our present and anticipating a future with a keen desire to have Trinity flourish in Smiths Falls. Let us continue to have courage and prepare ourselves to be transformed as we enter into a new Covenant.

Easter blessings,
Jan Montgomery
Council Chair

WHAT IS A REMIT?

A remit is the middle step of a three-step process required to change the Basis of Union, and hence the church. The first step is that General Council must approve a remit for a proposed change. The remit question is then put to presbyteries and possibly pastoral charges, which must approve it with an absolute majority. If that approval is given, the third step is for the next General Council to also agree to the proposed change. According to The Manual, 2013 (F.2, page 125); a remit is “a vote by presbyteries or by presbyteries

and pastoral charges to change the Basis of Union". The Basis of Union is the document that was drawn up when The United Church of Canada was founded in 1925.

There are five remits being voted on by pastoral charges: (1) Three-Council Model, (2) Elimination of Transfer and Settlement, (3) Office of Vocation, (4) Funding a New Model, and (6) One Order of Ministry. Remits 1, 2, 3 and 4 results must be received by June 30, 2017. Remit 6 results must be received by February 28, 2018.

Trinity Smiths Falls Church Council is meeting Saturday, March 18th to study, discern and vote on the four remits due by June 2017.

For further information about the remits being considered and voted on by Church Council, please go to GC42.ca/remits.

Jan Montgomery

AN INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Your Nominating Team invites you to share your gift of time and talent by considering the following opportunities to serve:

Stewardship Team is in need of a Fund-Raising Coordinator: someone who likes to organize and plan the proposed fund-raising projects and to bring some new ideas to contribute to Trinity's financial sustainability.

Council & Team Meetings are open for guests to attend (exception Ministry & Personnel). You are invited to observe the discussions and decisions that are made ever mindful of our Living Mission, Vision and Core Values.

Council meets Tuesday, March 28, June 13, September 26 & November 28 @ 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship – 3rd Monday @ 6:30 p.m. monthly

Spiritual Leadership – 1st Monday @ 7:00 p.m. monthly.

Christian Community – at the call of the Chair

Upcoming Learning Opportunities:

Bay of Quinte Conference Stewardship Festival at Edith Rankin UC, Kingston, Thursday, May 4

Contact: Jan Montgomery @ 613-812-1881/jmontgomery827@gmail.com

Marguerite Cameron @ 613-283-7438 or Team Chairs (see Council & Teams Directory and Bulletin Board)

Connect - Inspire - Serve



in Brockville. After five years of lessons with Ron and exams from The Royal Conservatory of Music, I began to fill in for him during the summer, as well as at other churches in Brockville, Kemptville, Merrickville, Smiths Falls, and Ottawa.

By 1987, I had my own church, Trinity United in Chesterville, with a choir of twenty. We had a wonderful two years together, and then I had the opportunity to move to Trinity United in Smiths Falls. There I had three manuals, and a choir of 30. For the first six years we just rolled along, and then Peter Woods became the minister at Trinity. He was, and is, a very good jazz musician. In 2000, we performed "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" as our millennium project. I played the score for that production on the organ.

Peter introduced me to Peter Dent and Marcus Mosely, both jazz and gospel musicians from Vancouver. In 2001, they were in the area offering gospel workshops to singers, and we held one at Trinity that was very successful. At that time, I participated in a jazz piano masterclass with Peter Dent.

In 1998-99 I studied with Sharon Adams, a church and theatre organist from Winchester. She made all the difference in my organ playing. It became more interesting and lively. After that, folks would actually come and say how the music "bounced" and how "joyful" it was.

In 2004, I retired from Trinity and the organ as Winston and I wanted to pass the winter months in South Texas. By the third winter, I was playing the organ for the Donna First United Methodist Church. They had a nice two manual Allen, and no one to play it. I played for November and December, so that they had the organ for Christmas. We always had an Advent Sunday evening carol service – outside in the garden, and the choir performed a cantata every year as well.

Four years ago, we stopped travelling to Texas for the winter. Of course, shortly thereafter, the United Church in town needed some help for the "summer months". I am still there, with two manuals, and a choir of 9, plus a minister who sings bass.

In 2003, Winston and I were in Florida during February. A gardening friend had told us the best thing in Florida was the Bok Sanctuary Garden. We ended up there on Martin Luther King Day, and spent an hour sitting under a live oak, listening to the glorious sound of spirituals and jazz played on a carillon.

That's where THIS started.

And, it seemed to me a logical progression from piano, to French Horn, to pipe organ, to carillon. So I wrote an email to Dr McCrady, and here we all are.

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wendy Earl will be the new Music Director at Trinity effective Sunday June 4, 2017! Church council voted unanimously this morning.

She was our organist and choir director from 1987-2004. She retired from the position so she and husband Winston could winter in the warm south.

They have been back and winter in Merrickville, for a couple of years. Wendy is the Organist in Merrickville United.

Wendy will also be starting the Carillon Certificate in Carleton University in July, with the Dominion Carillonneur, on Parliament Hill.

I am happy to have permission to share the attached article that she used in her successful application to that program.

Joyfully,

Peter Au,
Choir Member

MUSICAL MEMOIR FOR WENDY STOKES-EARL.

In September of 1950, my mother decided that I should begin to study the piano. I had turned 4 in July of that year, and I guess she did not want to waste any time. She was a wonderful piano player, a piano teacher, and very involved in the festival scene in Toronto. By the next year, I was performing in competitions (called

festivals in those days in Toronto). The Kiwanis Club of Ontario seemed to have them all over the place, so we travelled to Sarnia, Peterborough, Brockville, and of course, the Eaton's Auditorium in Toronto. As well, I took Trinity College of Music exams every year. I have been a performer ever since.

In school, I was always in the band playing the French Horn. My instructor just happened to be Reg Barrow, principle French Horn with the Toronto Symphony. When we moved from Toronto to Merrickville in 1963, I went to High School in Kemptville. Louise Atchison and I decided that the school really needed a choir: so we started one. She introduced me to the pipe organ, as she was the organist at St. James Anglican in Kemptville. Louise was also the accompanist for the North Grenville Concert Choir for many years, and she has recently started a new choir, the Swinging Singing Seniors. I was the accompanist for their production of "Till We Meet Again".

In 1979 I saw an ad in the Smiths Falls paper from Ron Bingley, the organist at Trinity United who was looking for organ students. It turned out that he was actually looking for students for spinet organs, those little 13-pedal instruments that were popular in the 70's. He ended up with me. While I was studying with Ron, (a student of Sir Alfred Whitehead), he moved to Wall Street Church

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

It is good to have new voices at the table, thanks to: Betty Lou Kempt, the UCW representative and Peter Au from the choir. We would like to thank Jan Montgomery for her leadership and wish her well as she steps down as Chair of SLT and assumes the Chair of Council. Co-operatively, we have talked about various ways we will lead and report from this committee.

Lent:

Each week we lit an additional candle. This was a visual reminder that Christ is always present as our hope and our light. Lenten symbols, visual reminders, were displayed each week to reflect the journey to the cross. There was a cross, a basin and towel, a crown of thorns, whip, and actual pieces of myrrh resin, to name a few. You are invited to visit the table and reflect on the items there. You may touch them and even smell them (esp. the Myrrh).

Maundy Thursday: Join us at 6:00 pm for a pot-luck Last Supper service. This will be an intimate meal reflecting Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Good Friday: we will join with our friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church for a 10:30 am church service followed by the Good Friday Walk.

Easter Morning: an early service at Trinity will be followed by a simple breakfast. The service will be outside—weather permitting. There will be a regular church service at 10:30 am.

Our Children's Ministry: two dedicated teachers with a set curriculum—all children are welcome. Watch the bulletin for our supper/movie nights.

Your feedback is always welcome. You may contact any member of the team with your comments: Arlyce Schiebout, IIM; Peter Au, choir; Ron Botham, Ushers; Heidi Peskett and Jana Plaunt, Children's Ministry; Sue Newport, Heather Quinn, and Norma Wrightly, recording secretary. In general, the Team discusses what preparations are needed so that our services reflect our love of God and provides a safe, inclusive place for people to join in community to worship.

Norma Wrightly,
secretary



In our bulletin we have a moment entitled:

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Do you wonder why we are praying for a particular church each week?

The Bay of Quinte Conference and the World Council of Churches each have set prayer cycles—as do other religious institutions. We post these in our bulletin each week and we may include them when we pray aloud.

Is there something they specifically need praying for?

Not necessarily, but our prayers join with others in our Conference and around the world praying for wholeness as God's people.

This is what the Bay of Quinte Conference has to say about the Conference Prayer Cycle.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

As part of the body of Christ, the Christian Church, we are invited to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

This prayer cycle invites prayer each week for a particular ministry and its work. It is a four year cycle and we are in the third year of the cycle.

In addition to praying for the ministries within the Bay of Quinte Conference you are also invited to pray for our United Church Overseas personnel and the work of the General Council Office and ministries in other conferences. The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle can be found at: www.wcc-coe.org

Why do we not say people's names out loud like some churches do?

We need prior approval of each individual to do so to protect the privacy of individuals, especially since we are televised and our bulletins are posted on our website and circulated in the community.

Engaging LENT

We learn and reflect in many ways. Perhaps you have a particular discipline that helps you focus your life and work during this season of Lent. The Spiritual Leadership Team offers the following three opportunities to help guide you during this season. Join with others as you are able.

1. Lenten Blessings Calendar reminds us of our blessings and the blessings we offer to the FOOD BANK. Calendars are available on table by cloak room. Who knows what a Kodi box is?

2. Visualizing the Passion

Lent is a time for reflection on the Passion of Christ as well as on our own lives. The visual display at the pulpit area helps to bring this message in a tangible, intimate, visual way. Do take the time to come up and see, smell, reflect. The visual display progresses weekly. Here is what you will see:

Week 1: *Display with huge rock and upright beam and cross bar*

Week 2: *A basin and towel reminiscent of the one Pilate used to wash his hands.*

Week 3: *The whip, a crown of thorns, and purple cloth symbolizing the robe.*

Week 4: *The hammer and nails.*

Week 5: *The cross bar will be placed on the upright beam.*

It doesn't get much better than that.



How do I become a member of the UCW? Membership is open to any woman who is in agreement with the Purpose of the United Church Women, and who is willing to participate on a regular basis with her prayers, gifts, and services for the work of the church in the world.

How do I know what Unit I should join? Trinity's UCW has two Units: The Friendship unit, which meets the first Wednesday of the month, usually in the evening at the church. The other is the New Horizons Unit, which meets in the evening on the second Tuesday of the month in the Church Parlour.

Our suggestion would be to visit each group and decide which one best suits you. Linda and I, both, feel that this is the only way you will feel truly part of the UCW.

Contact Information:

Friendship Unit: Ann Marleau, 205-0390
New Horizons Unit: Linda Stronski, 281-3002

WHAT IS WARM, FRIENDLY, LOTS OF CHATTER AND A FEELING OF JOY?

That was what the Friendship Unit and the ladies of Van Horne Manor experienced when we met there on March 1st for a get-together. We all shared stories, a worship service, laughter, a quiz on 'name that hymn', a delicious lunch, and a comforting feeling of belonging with each other. What a wonderful way to spend the afternoon!
Cynthia Sirett

2017 MISSION AWARENESS TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

Hi, my name is Owen Wrightly and I am attending the 2017 Mission Awareness trip to El Salvador during the March break. We left for Montreal on Wednesday, March 8th and flew to San Salvador, El Salvador at 8:45 AM the next day. From our Presbytery, we were able to pack 2 huge humanitarian suitcases weighing 150 lbs. and another normal sized one containing school supplies, lots of soap, medicine, medical dressings and toiletries. We returned on the 16th to Canada and home on the 17th. During the trip we travelled around the city of San Salvador visiting and helping out where we could. (Hopefully, we also had a chance to visit a beach during the trip).

I would like to thank everyone for the amazing support and donations for this Mission and Service.

Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service,” we will do so in celebration.

Linda Stronski and I have stepped forward to lead our UCW this year and we would like to thank Jane Turpin for agreeing to be our 1st Vice-president. We sincerely thank you, Jane, and promise to support you in any way we can, as you take on this leadership role within the UCW.

Linda Stronski will be ending her term as the Presbyterial president as of April 19th. We congratulate Linda for a job well done. Her leadership has been invaluable at Presbyterial and Presbytery alike. We know this is not the end of her UCW journey.

Also, our UCW is pleased to announce that Linda Ziemann (Kitchen Convener) and Jeannie Walton (Nominating) agreed to let their names stand for these positions.

This influx of new voices will help keep our UCW growing and vibrant—thanks to all the women who say “yes, I can do that”.

Speaking of leadership roles, we are pleased to let you know that Betty Lou Kempt is the UCW rep to the Spiritual Leadership Team and Joanne Hunter is the rep to the Stewardship Team. Thank you. Communication is so vitally important.

This Year to Date: We’ve enjoyed a fun and fellowship day and, even though it

had to be rescheduled, women came out for an afternoon of games and refreshments. Barb Byam introduced us to a new board (new to us—that is). Laughter could be heard all the way up stairs—we are certain—and the snacks—yummy—something for everyone. These ‘days’ are held bi-monthly in the Church hall—watch the bulletin for the next date. If you have a board game or other game that you think folks would enjoy playing, bring it along to the next Fun-day in April.

The opposite months we hold a general UCW meeting. Business is discussed in an open and encouraging atmosphere. All UCW members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In late January, we hosted a Chili supper with funds raised going to the Mission Awareness Trip to El Salvador over the March break. Owen Wrigly, from our congregation, will have been and returned by the time you read this, but this was a way to help him and others go with our partners in San Salvador. The Presbyterial Annual Meeting will be in Delta on April 19 and the Conference UCW’s AGM will be on April 26 in Renfrew. All women are welcome to attend. These days provide a wonderful opportunity to meet other UCW members from the area and within our Conference, hear great speakers, have an opportunity to visit the United Church Book Room via a book display, sing your hearts out, and enjoy wonderful food.

Week 6: *Palm Sunday, we will add a hyssop branch with a wine vinegar-soaked sponge, the inscription on the cross and a spear. A jar filled with myrrh resin and a burial cloth will be beside the cross. Breathing in the aromatic resin used for burial will be a meaningful action.*
Week 7: *Fresh flowers will remind us of new life in a resurrected Christ!*

(Resource: **Reformed Worship**, vol 82, 2006)

3. **“That We May Know Each Other”** is United Church – Muslim Dialogue study document. Join with others for learning on Sundays, March 19, 26, April 2 & 9, 4.30 – 6 p.m. in Church Hall. Document is available online at www.united-church.ca or at church office. A \$5 contribution for printing would be appreciated if possible.

THE GOLDEN RULE

This poster has been hung in the church hall near the kitchen. Take time to look at it and read it. There is also, a small copy in the Upper Room for the Children’s Ministry.

From the poster’s creator:
Paul McKenna explained that the Golden Rule had become an ongoing passion for him over thirty years ago, when he first saw it expressed from the point of view



of a number of faith traditions. The poster took five years of research that included consultations with experts in each of the 13 faith groups and with a host of graphic designers.

Paul pointed out that many mistakenly think of the Golden Rule (a name first applied to it only at the end of the 17th Century) as uniquely Christian: ‘In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets’ (Matthew 7:12).

Paul says, “I think this poster will really move the interfaith dialogue ahead, because it both symbolizes and inspires unity.”

<https://www.scarboromissions.ca/golden-rule/the-golden-rule-poster-a-history>

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

Hello, my name is Keelan Wrightly and I have been part of The Rev. Dr. Jackie Harper's pilot project, for Confirmation class.

Now you may be asking, "What is confirmation class?". Confirmation class is when you get prepared to get confirmed into the Church.

The cool part about our class is that youth from across the Presbytery come to it. It is being hosted in four different United churches: Elgin, Newboro, Trinity, and Portland.

Within Four Rivers Presbytery there are congregations that have one or two young people who are ready to take Confirmation Classes, but it is more fun if you are with a group of peers and there is greater opportunity for interaction. Therefore, Presbytery asked for help from the Bay of Quinte Conference and The Rev. Dr. Jackie Harper developed a curriculum. Host churches volunteered to help, assistants volunteered, youth from various congregations signed-up for four sessions: two all day, and two half days over four months. This is a standalone curriculum and, if the feedback is positive, will go across the church nationally. This does not preclude congregations from holding their own standalone classes or from augmenting this course..

The youth have prepared a Christ Candle, with the intent that it be at each church

for the various Confirmation Services. It is also hoped that the youth will be able to attend other member's Confirmation services.



The Spiritual Leadership Team, Trinity, Smiths Falls will review the curriculum and augment it accordingly. Confirmation will take place on Pentecost Sunday at Trinity, if our Confirmand decides and is deemed ready to proceed with becoming a member of The Church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Stewardship takes many forms. Baking for special events or bake sales, helping at dinners and in other ways, working at fund raising events, assisting staff, offering skills when needed, regular contributions in offerings.....all contribute to the health of the church. Your commitment resulted in a surplus for the general fund in 2016. We are especially appreciative of contributions from the UCW and the Trustees.

Your church continues to provide strength and well-being to members and to the community. There are many opportunities where you can assist, or ideas that you can initiate. Please do remember Trinity as you plan your personal budget. This is a very active year for your church. We have such a caring congregation that I am confident we will again meet our obligations and creativity. Your Church Council is careful in funding activities.

Again I congratulate you on your generous support and contributions to the community that is Trinity United.

Respectfully submitted
Arnel W. Pattemore
Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

We as a team are doing quite well. We have two new members on the team, Joanne Hunter and Chuck Kempt. We all have our opinions which come together to get the end result.

As you must have noticed by now we have a new defibrillator in the vestibule, we also have a sign on the window to alert anyone outside in case of emergency on the other side of the door.

We are into March already so we hope that you are thinking about your flowers: geraniums that is. They will be available as our fund raiser again this year.

As you can see at the back of the church things are starting to happen, two rows of pews have gone. A new station is built to accommodate the sound equipment and cameras too. This will help with the audio level and video taping of the service.

Salt and Light (a Stewardship Project). That was quite a big job preparing all the paperwork for the project, everyone pitched in and all went well. We, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for the positive response. People have been very generous and it is greatly appreciated. Everyone helps out when our church and town have needs. Once again THANK YOU.

"Ask and ye shall receive."

Respectfully Submitted
June Pevere, Chairperson

UCW CELEBRATES THE SPIRIT

Celebrate is what the UCW plans to do this year. UCW is 55 years young, and as we reflect on our mission: "to love God; foster Christian commitment, faithfulness, and spirituality; and promote respect and love for all God's creation" and our purpose: "To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to be a means by which we may express our loyalty and devotion to