



THE COMMUNICATOR



MINISTERS MESSAGE

The Epistle lesson for Thanksgiving reads thus -

I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

circumcised on the eighth day,

a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews;

as to the law, a Pharisee;

as to zeal, a persecutor of the church;

as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:4-14

Paul's declaration of confidence in the flesh is followed by a description of privilege. His birth, upbringing, opportunity and disposition were given. In this privilege, he anchored his pride. His position in life was assumed. He could move about the marketplace and halls of power without being challenged or questioned with respect to his right to be there. Prior to meeting Christ on the Damascus road, Paul would have been one of those folk to whom Jesus refers who "love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi." Matthew 23:7

Paul's privilege did not manifest in gratitude. Prior to his conversion, he was a closed, insecure, angry man; "as to zeal, a prosecutor of the church," betrays this. Privilege feeds an unconscious fragility, it is easily threatened and is no friend to gratitude. It was only when Paul was able to let go of privilege that he could understand his standing in the context of grace. It was in meeting Jesus that Paul learned that privilege and pride "puffs up," while grace opens the way to gratitude.

We are a people of enormous blessing. Whether we view these blessings as points of privilege or gifts of grace will shape our disposition to be of pride or of gratitude. This Thanksgiving, let us pray that God will open our eyes to privilege so that we might assign it to its proper place, the rubbish bin, along with unwarranted pride. Once set free, may we seize upon God's unmerited grace and live with unbounded gratitude and generosity.

Many Blessings, Reverend Christopher



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Board of Trustees, Property, and Council Update

Sanctuary Restoration

On July 9th, it was discovered that a section of Plaster had fallen from the ceiling in the sanctuary. The sanctuary was closed. Fortunately, worship services for the month of July had been moved to the Fellowship Hall. On Monday July 10th, ServiceMaster Smiths Falls responded to our request and did a damage inspection where many weak spots and cracks were discovered across the ceiling that require work before they too cause falling plaster. It was imperative that we moved quickly with this project.

Following a full assessment and estimate of work and cost (ceiling and walls), on approval of Church Council Trinity signed a contract with ServiceMaster to undertake the clean-up and restoration of the sanctuary. The estimated cost of the work is \$170,059. The estimated completion date for the project is the end of October 2023. Although both the cost could increase and the schedule be extended due to unforeseen issues. Church Council approved up to \$200,000 be provided from Trinity's Funds-in-Trust held by the Board of Trustees for the project.



New Permanent Accessibility Ramp

No more wooden ramp – As part of its Market Street reconstruction, the Town of Smiths Falls has provided a permanent accessibility ramp from street level to the sidewalk (in front of our main entrance). We are most grateful to the town in providing this improvement.



Trinity's Visioning and Discernment Workshops

Completed – Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett, EOORC Minister for Visioning with Communities of Faith, Clusters and Social Justice and Outreach Networks, facilitated four (4) visioning workshops over the spring and summer months. The last workshop was held on September 19, 2023. A great deal of discussion and sharing of ideas took place during those four workshops as we were presented with the questions concerning

- Who we are, as a congregation?
- Where is God calling us to go - What is our calling?
- What are our gifts – What do we bring to the table?
- a brief look at possible future action to fulfill our "Call".

Council meets on September 27, 2023 to establish next steps. We are most grateful to Rev. Dr. Bartlett for his leadership, guidance, expertise and commitment to Trinity in conducting these workshops.

Board of Trustees, Property, and Council Update (Continued)

Board of Trustees - Sale of the Bell Avenue Property

As last reported there remained several important details to action before we can close the books on the sale of the Bell Avenue Property and we were waiting on advice from EOORC on these issues... here is an update:

Passing to EOORC the required documents of the sale for the Council records include

- Transferring the required 10% of the proceeds of the sale to EOORC to support United Church of Canada Indigenous Ministries; and
- Submitting an updated Financial Plan for the use, by Trinity, of the remaining 90% of the proceeds of the sale... Investment plan and immediate spending plan.

In the meantime, the proceeds of the sale are invested in a BMO High Interest Saving Account. The HISA provides protection against inflation, returns a higher interest rate than GICs and is available for disposition.

General Fund Cash Flow Shortfall 2023

Please note that to date in 2023, Council has had to approve the transfer of Funds in Trust to the tune of \$45,000 to cover expenses. A reminder, the purpose of Funds in Trust is not to cover ongoing operating expenses.

Submitted by Bob Swan on behalf Property, Council, and Board of Trustees (all information current on date of submission, September 21, 2023)

Delicious Autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking successive autumns. – George Elliot



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM



Your gifts make it possible for Trinity to provide a sacred space for worship, for learning, for serving others and a place of belonging and fellowship.

The financial sustainability goal of the Stewardship and Finance Team is to see Trinity's day-to-day operational expenses being met solely through givings. Currently in 2023, the General Account has required cash flow funding from Funds held in Trust by the Trustees to a total of \$45,000. There will be required another request for funding during the Autumn to meet the upcoming expenses.

Monthly giving can make a tremendous difference in creating stable cash flow to meet the financial needs of the church. Consider enrolling in the United Church of Canada PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) Program. Monthly donations will be transferred from your bank account to Trinity's accounts (General, Mission & Service, Good Samaritan etc. or wherever you designate) and you can modify, cancel or change your information at any time. Brochures are available on the Offering Table or through the church office. In this way, you are expressing your deeper connection and commitment to the ongoing life of Trinity.

For those of you who give by weekly envelope donation, there will be no envelopes ordered again this year. Please continue to use any you have on hand by amending the date. If you require a supply of envelopes, contact the church office and a supply will be made available for you. 613-283-4444.

The Team has been without a Chairperson and Secretary this year so it is in need of persons to fill those positions in order to revitalise the Team to undertake some significant fundraising projects. Please give it your consideration if you have the necessary interest and enthusiasm.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing support of Trinity whether it be financial or through donation of your time – a very valuable contribution indeed.

SAVE THE DATE: The Barrel Boys Bluegrass Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary so mark your calendars – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving and Sincere Thanks from your Stewardship Team:

Jan Montgomery (Church Treasurer), Mike Murphy, Bob Swan (Trustees), Joanne Hunter (UCW)

Ministry and Personnel

We welcome Rev. Christopher back from his sabbatical!

Reminder: The Ministry and Personnel Committee are responsible for good communication between the congregation and the paid staff of Trinity. Annual reviews will take place with the staff in early November and we welcome your input of suggestions and appreciation by Nov. 1.

Carol Williams – journey@ripnet.com , 613 269 4427

Carolyn Lunn – crlunn51@gmail.com, 613 283 6663



United Church Women Report

The UCW membership has had a busy 2023 Spring and Summer.

March, April & May we visited the folks at Van Horne Manor for a monthly coffee time with our UCW members and friends living there. We held our May meeting at Van Horne Manor in the Activity Room.

April – We held a Fascinator Workshop in the Church Hall. We held a successful New To You Sale. Some UCW attended the Upper Valley Area UCW AGM in Renfrew featuring guests, Military Wives Choir from Petawawa. On Camping Sunday UCW held a Free Will Offering to support young campers this summer.

May – Coronation Watch Party followed by High Tea with our individual Fascinators. The event made the Smiths Falls Record News!

June – UCW members voted to donate \$3500 to Trinity General Account. Sent \$100 cheques to each of Camp Lau-Ren, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac and Rideau Hill Camp to support camp leadership. Held a very successful sold out Strawberry Social.

June, July – UCW led two Worship services during Rev. Christopher's Sabbatical.

July – UCW volunteers provided daily lunch and snacks for the campers and leaders of Camp Awesome held for a week in July.

August – Some UCW and other church members gathered at Brenda King's cottage on Little Silver Lake for her annual Trinity Day Away. Sadly, the UCW arranged an Honour Guard to attend the visitation for the late Donna Egan, a long-standing UCW member.

September – UCW members voted to send \$100 to CHEO in memory of Olivia Kempt, 15-year old granddaughter of our UCW President, Betty Lou Kempt, who died in August. Some members attended Seaway Valley Area UCW for their September Gathering in Bishops Mills. Ten UCW members attended the Four Rivers Presbyterial Area Fall Rally in Delta with guest speaker Paul Sales speaking on the progress of the 2025 new digital hymn book, Then We Now Sing!

UPCOMING UCW EVENTS:

GRASSROOTS GRANNIES – Cookies Sale on Sundays September 24, October 1 and 15 to support a fundraiser through the Stephen Lewis Foundation that supports grandmothers in Africa who are raising their orphaned grandchildren due to widespread AIDS. Cookies \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

HARVEST DINNER – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20. ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY. Seating at 5:00 with self serve dinner at 5:30 p.m. \$20/pp. \$10 for 6-10 years old and 5 and under free. Ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, cole slaw and pumpkin pie for dessert.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY – OCTOBER 29th with guest speaker, Betty Turcotte, author. At that time there will be Dedication of the Least Coin (small change collected during the year at each of our monthly meetings).

HOLLY FAIR – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – 10:00 – 1:00. Baked goods, preserves, Christmas ornaments, jewellery etc. This year there will be a Coffee Shop in the Parlour. Admission price for coffee/tea and muffin to be determined.

Submission by Jan Montgomery, UCW, Secretary



Have you ever held back and not said what you wanted to say out of fear of hurting another or said way too much and lived to regret it? This series of The Belonging Project + is about practicing the skills of expressing what is important to us and working with what others have to say (even if it isn't the kindest), so that our relationships are strengthened.

Dates and times will be announced in church and on Facebook.

For more information see Carol Williams, 613 269 4427, journey@ripnet.com.

To learn more about the process of Non-Violent Communication see www.cupofempathy.com

Folks outside the Trinity community are most welcome!



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

It is so good to see everyone again. We were happy to see Christopher return from his sabbatical and holiday. Thank you to all the teams, the Licenced Lay Worship Leaders and Rev. Nancy Clarke for your hard work to make our services relevant to us. The year ahead looks exciting, though we are just in the beginning stages of planning.

In Book Club, we are just beginning to read “An Extra Mile”, the fourth book in The Sensible Shoes Series. This has been an excellent series for a book study as it has not been 100% necessary to read the preceding books to be able to follow along. Book club is at 1p.m on Mondays in the Upper Room. Bible Study has taken us into The Book of Mark. Bible Study takes place at 9:30 am. on Wednesday. We usually set aside the Chapter of Mark to do the Advent Study during the Advent season. This is planned again this year and will be mentioned in the bulletin. Everyone is welcome to join us during these meetings.

If you are wondering what is happening with our Labyrinth, do not fret, Rev. Christopher is working on its completion. If anyone wishes to assist I am sure he will have a job. He hopes it will be completed sooner rather than later.

We are continuing having Potluck and Prayers on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month. It has become an important part of our reflections. We are celebrating Clergy Appreciation in October. On October 17 we hope as many of you as possible will come to show your appreciation to our wonderful paid staff. We all know how hard they work to keep us afloat.

We have now been able to resume Early Communion. Early Communion will take place in the Upper Room until we can use the Chapel again. It will take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School has begun again, It will take place on the 2nd and last Sunday of every month. Our Teachers, Cathay Pickup and Kim Johnston are wonderful and we would be lost without them. They have recruited a couple of high school students to assist them, please show them a huge Trinity welcome.

A huge Thank you to Cory and Patty Agnew. They have been wonderful keeping our tech going. Patty has introduced us to the Proclaim software and is using it every Sunday. The slides look wonderful. This is making the job just a little bit easier for everyone involved in such a large job.

We have lost a lot of our congregation over the last couple of years. We remember them all fondly but at the same time we must remember that we have come this far together. Covid is still trying to rear it's head but we have learned many ways to fight back and have learned how important our friends and family are.

The Spiritual Leadership Team meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m in the Upper Room and by remote. We welcome your input.

Your Spiritual Leadership Chairperson, Heather Quinn

Camp Awesome 2023

Trinity was honoured this year to host CAMP AWESOME in July. We worked in collaboration with Bethel Rideau Ferry, St. Paul's United Perth and Zion Memorial in Carleton Place. EOORC were very excited to have us work together to try to bring Camp Awesome to the rural areas, not just the city.

We had 8 children participating with 5 counselors, hired by EOORC. The children seemed to have a great time learning about different aspects of the bible and the world around us. The children arrived by 9 a.m and visited together until the Camp Awesome train arrived to form them into a group to start the program for the day. Charlie the church mouse talked to them from a secret location every day. He even went missing one day and the children had to complete activities to earn pieces of cheese to find out how to save him.

We were able to obtain grants for transportation and for food. Teddy was a wonderful bus driver and the children were very excited to ride the bus with him on a daily basis. We were grateful for Norma Wrightly, Jan Montgomery, and Cathy Ryan for riding the bus as a second adult. Janine Hanna came up with a wonderful menu and was able to organize help to feed the children 2 snacks and lunch each day. Thank you to everyone who helped. It was definitely a huge endeavour.



Sunday School
Second and Last Sunday
of the month



Lanark Drum Circle
The last Sunday of each month at 1pm
Trinity United Church Gym

Rainbow 101
Second Friday of
each month
6pm in church
hall



**Van Horne
Service**
First Tuesday
of each month

Pot Luck & Praise

Join the Spiritual Leadership and Christian Community team every 3rd Tuesday of the month for a pot-luck supper and a short worship service. Starts at 6:00 pm. The coffee pot is always on.