

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH" APRIL 20, 2010

Hello everyone.

The arrival of spring is always a tonic, and it appears we are enjoying a very mild and enjoyable stretch of weather the past few weeks. Suddenly you look around as you drive down the highway and you can't help but note that the trees are beginning to bud and your grass looks like it could use a cut.

Our church staff are probably taking a moment or two to catch their breath after a very busy Easter season earlier in April, but events rarely slow down too much for everyone at Trinity, and we are all the better for that.

Spring means it's time for ***Trinity's 3rd Annual Perennial and Plant Sale*** which this year will be held on **Saturday, May 15 from 8 to 11 a.m.** Donations of both plants and your time are needed. You can contribute plants by bringing them to the church from Monday, May 3 to Friday, May 14. They can be left, in pots or containers, in the outside area between the sanctuary and the C. E. Centre, as in previous years. Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up and to help on the day of the sale. You don't need to be Luther Burbank or some other noted botanist to be of help. If you can assist, please call **Jean Lander** at 905-342-5450, or speak to anyone on the Stewardship Division.

Did you see some of the great photos that **Alasdair Gillespie** took of our recent **Trinity Scholarship Fund Talent Show** in the recent edition of the "**SNAP**" newspaper? You can probably still catch them at that publications' web site at www.snapnorthumberlandwest.com. Thanks again to all those who contributed time and talent to that event, and to Alasdair (also known as "Karsh of Cobourg") for lending us his photographic skills. I am also advised that one of our talented groups who call themselves "*Happily Ever After*" can be seen on YouTube singing their song "*The Best Day*" at the show. If you want to see that go to the web site <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyZR5BHBMHU>

Brigitte Kelly, who assists us with our church security issues reports that the new fire alarm system at Trinity is now fully installed and operational. Those in attendance at a recent Sunday service had an opportunity to hear the alarm's non-melodic sound so we would recognize the blaring sound in the event of a real emergency. The new system should avoid the series of false alarms that had plagued us from time to time in the past. Remember

that is you do hear the new fire alarm, you must remain calm and exit the building as promptly as possible, in an orderly fashion.

The next opportunity to participate in our "FundScrip" fundraising activity is next Sunday, April 25. "FundScrip" is an ongoing project of our Stewardship Committee, which enables you to purchase gift cards to use for your everyday purchases at many local stores. When you purchase these gift cards, each of the merchants involved refunds a percentage of the amount (varying from about 2% up to about 7% depending on the store) right back to Trinity United. This program does not require you to buy anything you would not normally buy anyway, and does not require to shop anywhere that you would not shop in the normal course of your usual habits. Even if you just bought gift cards and used them to purchase the same groceries you were planning to buy in any event, you could easily generate about a \$300.00 annual rebate to Trinity. Multiply that by the number of people in the congregation and you can see that the use of the gift cards could deliver a substantial financial boost to Trinity, without really costing you a thin dime. Many local stores provide gift cards which are eligible for this program, including Metro, Foodland, Your Independent Grocer, Valu-Mart and NoFrills grocery stores, M&M Meat Shops (for groceries); gas stations Esso, PetroCanada and Ultramar; restaurant chains like Swiss Chalet, Pizza Pizza, Casey's, East Side Mario's, Subway; retail stores like Best Buy, Blockbuster Video, Canadian Tire, Chapters/Indigo/Coles, Zellers, Mark's Work Warehouse, Home Hardware, Home Depot, Shoppers Drug Mart, Rona, Sears, Staples and many, many others. If you are interested in participating in this program, then you can order these gift cards directly at Trinity. On Sunday, April 25 Dave Upton of the Stewardship Committee will take orders after church in the C.E. Centre. You can fill out the form, and provide your cheque for the gift cards payable to "Trinity United Church", and the gift cards themselves would be delivered to you the following Sunday, which would be May 2. Dave advises that if you go to FundScrip's web site at http://www.fundscrip.com/Material/Spring_en.pdf, there is some information about special April promotions and some news about some stores which have increased the percentage of your purchases which can be rebated back to Trinity. If you have any more questions, you could call Dave Upton for further information, or call me at 905-372-7537.

If you are one of those folks who make your contributions to Trinity through the traditional Giving Envelopes, the **new envelopes are available now in the C. E. Centre.** As many of our members are now on "PAR" (see my note below), we needed fewer envelopes this year, and so if you previously had a number between 226 and 275, you have been assigned a new

number. To ensure you get proper tax deduction credit for your donations, make sure you do not use any of your "leftover" old envelopes after May 1. If you do not have envelopes and would like to have them, you can call the church office at 905-372-7911.

On the other hand, have you considered making your regular contributions and offerings to Trinity by going on "PAR" (pre-authorized remittance)? This is a simple process by which you agree to make a donation each month or week to Trinity which is automatically transferred from your bank account to Trinity on the dates and in the amount of your choosing. No more scurrying on a Sunday morning to find your donation envelope or your cheque book, or looking through the cushions on the couch for whatever coins you can find. It is convenient to you, and helpful to the church, as they can count on a reliable "cash flow", and you can ensure your donation is made regularly, even if you may be away from Trinity for a week or so, or over a winter or summer vacation. The amount you commit to your regular PAR donation can be changed any time (increased or decreased) if your situation changes, simply by contacting the church office. If you would like to "get on PAR" you could call Cindy at the church office 905-372-7911, or speak with Finance Chairperson Lloyd Williams.

Trinity is always a busy place with church activities, and we always welcome the opportunity to welcome the wider community to use and enjoy our facilities. So Trinity often becomes a popular place for public concerts and other community events. The award winning **La Jeunesse Choirs** will be presenting their spring concert "**Earth Tones**" at Trinity on **Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 3 p.m.** Tickets are available through the Box Office at the Concert Hall at Victoria Hall or by phone at 905-372-2210, or at the door prior to the concert.

Our **2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT** is being prepared soon, and year end reports from committees and divisions are required to be submitted by **Sunday, May 9.** You can bring your reports and put them in Cindy's mailbox at the church, or you can send them to her by e-mail at choffman@trinitycobourg.ca Thanks for keeping that deadline in mind.

The **Trinity Men's Breakfast Club** has been meeting for a few weeks now. Anyone interested can meet for breakfast on Monday mornings at Cap'N'Jack's Restaurant at the corner of Division Street and Elgin Street in Cobourg at 8:30 a.m. You can speak to **Lloyd Williams**, or call him at 905-372-9763 if you are interested or have any questions. I am sure this group will eventually solve the problems of the world if they put their mind to it, or at least come away after some interesting conversations.

Don't forget a unique way to make note of significant events in your life by making a donation to Trinity's "**Celebration Fund**". You can make a donation to Trinity to mark these special occasions, and we will be happy to spread the word to everyone. Recent contributions came from Peter and Betty Sterling, who welcomed their first grandchild, the beautiful Madison Claire Hunter, daughter of the Sterling's daughter Jane and her husband Joshua Hunter. Kathleen and Glen Clark also made a donation in celebration of the first birthday of their grandson Eli.

The **Steering Committee** of our "**HERE WE GROW**" project will be presenting its most recent report on the progress regarding our proposed renovations to our C. E. Center to the Congregational Council executive at their meeting tomorrow night, April 21. I have sent you a copy of that report as an "attachment" to this e-mail, and would encourage you to read all about the current status of this very important project.

If you have items that you think need publicizing to the Trinity family, feel free to call or e-mail me and we will include the information in future editions of our e-mail newsletter "Keeping in Touch". If you know of others who would like to have their e-mail address added to our mailing list, then let me know that as well.