

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH"

December 13, 2011

Hello everyone.

I am writing to you tonight to bring you up to date on a decision made this past Sunday, December 11 by the Congregational Council.

For many years now, we have been very pleased to have a piano in the sanctuary, as well as our magnificent organ. The presence of a good piano in the sanctuary obviously offers us so many more musical opportunities for use with the choirs, and for use with so many other concerts and events that take place in our sanctuary.

But did you know that the lovely wood-tone Steinway piano in the sanctuary does not actually belong to Trinity? I suspect many of you do know that, but I wonder if many of you did not realize that. In fact that piano is the property of the La Jeunesse Girls Choir. La Jeunesse purchased that piano several years ago, and as they rehearse and perform primarily in our sanctuary, an agreement was reached that would allow La Jeunesse to house their piano in our sanctuary, and we would be permitted to make use of the piano for church services and activities. This arrangement has worked very well for many years.

However, recently La Jeunesse made a decision to sell their piano. I am not privy to the circumstances which led their board of directors to make that decision, but that is the decision they reached.

As a result of that decision, we realized that in due course La Jeunesse would complete the sale of their piano and the sanctuary here at Trinity would be left without a suitable piano.

As a result, Council approved the creation of a committee to investigate the purchase of a new piano for the Trinity sanctuary. The committee (our music director Debbie Fingas, Rev. Kristiane Charlton, Anthony Holt, Lori Wensley and myself) were charged with the responsibility of assessing a number of pianos and making a recommendation to the Council regarding the purchase of a new grand piano for Trinity.

The Committee (everybody except me, unfortunately, as I was stuck in court) traveled on December 5 to Toronto and elsewhere to look at pianos at a variety of retailers. They were able to come to a consensus on what piano to recommend to us fairly quickly when everyone realized they were all impressed with the very same instrument.

As a result, the Committee returned to Trinity and at a meeting of the Congregational Counsel held after church on Sunday, December 11, it was moved, seconded and approved that Trinity should purchase a beautiful 7'6" Knabe grand

piano from Robert Lowrey's Pianos in Toronto at a cost of \$33,335.00 (which includes HST), with the cost of the piano to be paid from The Memorial Fund.

We appreciate that a piano of this size and quality is not an inexpensive item. But these events occur at a good time for Trinity financially. Firstly, there are sufficient funds in the Memorial Fund to pay for the piano, and in the view of Council, this is precisely the kind of purchase that funds in the Memorial Fund were meant to cover. Money in the Memorial Fund comes from bequests left to Trinity in individual's Wills and are meant for special purchases just like this. Secondly, the funds in the Memorial Fund might have been required for the new steel roof being installed on the C. E. Centre, but fortunately we were the recipients of a Trillium Fund grant from the Ontario Government which will cover the roof expenses, thereby leaving the Memorial Fund money available for this piano purchase.

The price for this piano, although substantial, is actually a very reasonable one for this quality of instrument. The piano was a "floor display" model at Lowrey's and hence was available at a substantially lower price than one that would have to be specially ordered. In addition, Lowrey's were already planning to deliver a similar piano to Ottawa, and so were willing to deliver our piano here at no deliver cost to us. The price also includes two custom tunings – one after delivery (as the moving of the piano itself can require re-tuning) and one in the reasonably near future, after the piano has "adjusted" to its new home.

As a result of all this, our new grand piano is possibly going to be delivered to Trinity tomorrow (Wednesday, December 14), and hence you may have the privilege of hearing our music director Debbie Fingas play it as part of our service this coming Sunday, December 18. As an avid piano player myself, I too am looking forward to experiencing the sound of this wonderful instrument, and perhaps having a chance to play it myself soon.

I know this new piano will be a magnificent addition to the music of our services, and the many concerts and other events that take place in our beautiful sanctuary.

Because the funds for the piano were available to us from our Memorial Fund, no formal "fundraising project" will be necessary to raise the funds to purchase the piano. However, that is not to say that donations are not encouraged for this purchase or for the many other activities ongoing at Trinity throughout the year. You see what donations to the Memorial Fund can do – so why not consider a donation to the Memorial Fund when determining how to plan your own Last Will and Testament? If the music from this new piano moves you, as I am sure it will, perhaps it will move you to decide to make a donation to contribute to the cost of the piano, and all such donations of course would be gratefully received.

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