

## **TRINITY UNITED CHURCH**

### **"KEEPING IN TOUCH" FEBRUARY 11, 2010**

We are approaching the season of Lent, which begins next week. The traditional start of Lent is Ash Wednesday. As Lent is seen as a serious time of contemplation and sacrifice, the traditional day before Lent was frequently a final opportunity to "live it up" and hence the international celebrations of "Mardi Gras" (literally "Fat Tuesday") or "Carnaval". Here at Trinity we are perhaps a little more reserved than they are in New Orleans or Rio de Janeiro, but we still kick off Lent with our annual PANCAKE SUPPER, which will be on Tuesday, February 16 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets have been on sale already, but are still available for \$8 for adults, \$4 for children (age 6 and up) and \$20 for your entire family. Our Stewardship and Outreach Committees have decided to generate the funds earned from this event to the relief efforts to help those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti. Volunteers may still be needed to help with the various jobs to make this event a success, from preparation to clean up. If you can help, call Dave Upton.

Shirley Moebus, the Chairperson of the Outreach Division wants to let everyone know that last week we sent almost \$4,000 to the United Church of Canada for the M&S Emergency Response Fund which began to respond to the needs of Haiti the day following the earthquake. This money includes revenue gathered so far for the Pancake Supper, and was collected in time to allow for the matching grants the federal government has promised until Feb 12th. This, of course, represents only a portion of money our members have contributed individually to the UCC and other organizations to help in this immediate crisis. The need goes on, however, so additional proceeds from the Pancake Supper, and any further donations will be submitted to that fund as well. Check the UCC website, [www.united-church.ca/haiti](http://www.united-church.ca/haiti), to find out how to donate directly. Well done, Trinity!

Another effort by our Outreach Committee is an effort to protest the Federal government's recent decision to cut off funding (through CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency) to Kairos, the church-based, non-governmental organization, representing seven of Canada's largest churches, including the United Church of Canada. It works with global partners on a wide range of social justice issues, including human rights in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. These partnerships are an important way that the United Church lives out its commitment to working

for peace, justice and living well with the Earth. The United Church believes the Federal government is very shortsighted in cutting funding to this valuable organization. The Outreach Committee organized a letter writing campaign, which made letters of protest sent to the Prime Minister and our local MP available to Trinity members. For more information you can go to the website [united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/091203](http://united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/091203).

Are you aware of our new fundraising program entitled "FundScrip"? This 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. Dave Upton of the Stewardship Committee will take orders on the last Sunday of each month 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. So, your next chance to order is on Sunday, February 27 and you would then pick up your gift cards on Sunday, March 7. If you have any more questions, you could call Dave Upton for further information, or call me at 905-372-7537.

The Christian Development Division invites you all to join in our Skating Party, which will be held at the Old Baltimore Arena on Sunday, February 21 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. There is no charge – free! free! Free! and there will be refreshments too! All ages are welcome, bring your family and friends, but you are asked to leave your hockey sticks at home.

After the Skating Party, plan to attend "Glimpses of India" a presentation by Kristiane Charlton (with her pictures and commentary) on her recent trip to India. This will be at 7 p.m. In the C.E. Centre. Again, come one – come all, and refreshments will be provided.

If you hang around Trinity long enough, you will soon trip over some enormously talented kid. We know from our music programs here at Trinity and from the many opportunities that young people have in the Cobourg area community, that we have very many talented young people in our midst. On Sunday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m., the young people of Trinity are presenting an entertaining evening entitled "Talent for the Future". We invite you to an evening of music, song and dance (maybe even some jugglers!), presented by Trinity's youth and other guests. All of the funds raised will be donated to the Trinity Scholastic Trust Fund. This will celebrate 10 years of this fund's donations to the young people of Trinity who are pursuing post-secondary school education. Donations to the fund are 100% applied to awarding these scholarships to deserving students. This promises to be a very entertaining evening. Our most recent scholarships from the Fund were awarded to Andrew Halligan (who is attending the University of Guelph), Callum Mireault (who is at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia) and Sam Wiggans (who is at Laurentian University in Sudbury). If you are a student planning to attend a post-secondary institution in September 2010, and you or your parent are members of Trinity United Church, you may apply for one of these awards. Applications are available in the church office.

Our music department has a couple of announcements of coming events. On Saturday, March 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. Trinity is hosting a Choral Workshop led by internationally known composer and author Nancy Telfer. Telfer has been a guest conductor and choral leader for many organizations throughout North America. If you are interested in attending this event, contact our music director Debbie Fingas by February 15. The workshop is free for Trinity members and only \$20 (to cover the cost of music) to those from the wider community. We are also organizing a "field trip" to "World Music Ensembles" organized by the University of Toronto. This event will be on Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. We are organizing a car-pool from Cobourg, leaving Trinity at 5 p.m. This event will include African drumming and dancing, Japanese Taiko drumming, Balinese gamelan and steel pan music. To volunteer as a driver, or for a ride, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board across from the Choir room.

Our next edition of our newsletter "INSIGHT" will be published for the Lenten season in the next few weeks. Thanks go to our Insight editors Roger and

Barbara Halligan and all those who contributed articles, photos or other items of interest. Look forward to receiving the next edition soon.

Our Finance Division presented our 2010 budget at a congregational meeting following our service on February 7. Those in attendance received a very informative brochure "Living our Faith" which in a clear, narrative style set out the various areas to which our financial contributions to Trinity are applied. If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of this document, you could contact the church office. Finance Division chairperson, Lloyd Williams took us through a summary of the financial situation at the end of 2009. We incurred a modest deficit at the end of 2009, which was thankfully far less than had been projected only a few months earlier. We are all thankful for the generosity of all Trinity members whose donations greatly decreased that deficit as the year end approached. However, we all know that "modest, manageable deficits" if incurred year after year, eventually add up to "major, unmanageable debt" if that situation is not addressed and corrected at some point. We all know that the old saying "you get what you pay for" is very true, and when we look around Trinity and see the successful programs offered here, and the growing attendance, we know that we must be doing something right. We are supported by an excellent professional staff and we want to keep this wonderful momentum going. If we aim to balance our budget for 2010, we have to essentially do two things. We need to restrain our expenses as best we are able, and the budget for expenditures for 2010 shows a very small increase over the costs incurred in 2009. The other side of the balance sheet is revenue, and in order to avoid a deficit in 2010, this will require a reasonably substantial increase in our personal givings. We all know that there are many demands on our financial means, and so many worth charitable causes calling out to us. We simply ask you to assess the importance of Trinity in your lives and to acknowledge the wonderful faith building programs available in this worship community and decide how you can best support these efforts through your givings to the Church. Have you considered going on "PAR" (pre-authorized remittance)? This is a simply 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.

For a drive to church on Sundays in February, call Edna Waldie at 905-372-9410.

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.

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