

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH"

January 14, 2009

Happy new year to everyone. We hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Year's celebrations, and now we head into a new calendar year which, like all others that have come before and will come in the future, will no doubt be full of challenges and accomplishments, struggles and celebrations. What we do know for certain is that at Trinity we have a community of faith that is ready, willing and able to provide support to each other and to the wider community no matter what the new year may throw our way.

"UNITED FUTURE" - Planning for the Future of our Church buildings

The future of our congregation, or more specifically the future of our physical facilities, and how we can plan for the most positive use of them in the future is the subject of **"UNITED FUTURE"**, led by our **Steering Committee** for this study. The initial phase of the project included small group presentations throughout the month of October 2008. In November 2008, many members of the congregation attended a day long event focussing on the physical needs of our church facilities and urging us to consider plans and needs for renovation of, or perhaps even replacement of, our church buildings, particularly our **sanctuary** and our **Christian Education ("C.E.") Centre**. The results of the input from those who attended that debate was later added to by all the members of the congregation throughout the latter part of 2008. Now, as we enter a new year, the Steering Committee has begun their preliminary reports to the congregation on the results of their efforts. They advise us as follows:

24% of the congregation are in favour of renovations which are intended to address the infrastructure of our buildings as they relate primarily to safety and accessibility.

54% of you are in favour of *minor* renovations to the *Sanctuary* and *major* renovations to the *C.E. Centre*.

17% of you are in favour of *major* renovations to the *Sanctuary* and also *major* renovations to the *C.E. Centre*.

The total of the above indicate that 95% of the congregation favour committing ourselves to renovation of our *present* facilities, while only 5% preferred to explore the possibility of relocating the Trinity congregation to an entirely new location and new buildings.

The survey also indicates that 71% of the respondents favour committing ourselves to significant *major* renovations to our *C.E. Centre*.

From all this input, the Steering Committee feels that it has received a clear mandate from a large majority of the congregation that we *want to stay in our present church location*, and that we favour some *minor* renovations in our *Sanctuary* and more *major* renovations to the *C.E. Centre*. There are still many options and possibilities to consider within that framework before any firm decision on what direction we should pursue will be determined. No money has been spent to date, and we have not committed to any particular expenditures. The **next step** is that the Planning Committee will approach some architectural firms with experience in this field to help us explore several options in this direction. Additional funds will obviously be required to implement whatever possibilities are decided on. **Rhonda Cunningham** will be calling on a number of people from the congregation to form a fund raising committee over the next few weeks. We will make every effort to keep the congregation fully informed through our church website - trinitycobourg.ca, through our regular "**Insight**" publication, and of course through this "**Keeping in Touch**" e-mail newsletter. The Steering Committee gathers the information, shares it with all members of the congregation, and then *the congregation* makes the choices. If you have an opinion that you would like to share with the Steering Committee, you can contact any member of the Steering Committee, or you can contact **Bill Wensley (905-372-6001)** or **Heather Halls (905-372-7537)**. They are the two **Congregational Liaisons** to the Steering Committee and their job is to ensure that the suggestions, comments and concerns of members of the congregation are fully communicated to the Steering Committee. Feel free to contact Bill or Heather with your thoughts.

"MY TRINITY IS ..."

I am certainly enjoying, and I hope are too, seeing all of the wonderful photographs displayed in the C. E. Centre of various members of the Trinity family who have completed the statement "**My Trinity is ...**". Watch out for Ron or Barb Swallow who may catch you on camera and ask for your thoughts for this growing and interesting display.

"MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT"

Our drama and music team for young people from Grade 7 and up - "**Many Gifts, One Spirit**" - will begin on **Sunday, January 18**, following our morning worship service. As in previous years, the group will have lunch together in the Parlour, and then rehearse together for about one hour. The group will present their drama on Sunday, March 8, and will also perform during one of our annual Lenten recitals. If you would like to join in this wonderful group, contact Nancy Lester at the church (905-372-7911).

"SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB"

The **"Sunday Night Supper Club"** will meet on **Sunday, January 18 at 5:30 p.m.** Come and enjoy a delicious home cooked meal in the company of friends - new and old. Everyone is welcome.

"THE WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY"

To celebrate **The Week of Christian Unity**, everyone is invited to join with other local churches for a service on **Sunday, January 18 at 7 p.m.** at the Cobourg Alliance Church at 1333 Ontario Street, Cobourg.

"HYMNSTOCK"

As a wonderful fundraiser for Trinity, our own **Kristiane Charlton** will be presenting an event we have named **"Hymnstock"**. On **Saturday, January 31**, starting at **9 a.m.**, Kristiane will begin playing a selection of hymns, including her own favourites, and your requests, and she will continue playing until **8 p.m.** if her stamina and enthusiasm holds out, which I am sure it will. The morning and afternoon music will be in the **C.E. Centre** and after 6 p.m., the evening session will move into the **Sanctuary** where she will be joined by some of her musical friends, for a big showbusiness finish, with refreshments to follow the conclusion of the evening. You are welcome to attend all day, or for any part thereof, to enjoy the music and to contribute financially to the cause. We encourage all our members to support this event with your donation, and to encourage friends and relatives both inside of and outside of Trinity to "pledge" toward the cause. Pledge forms will be included in the Sunday morning bulletins in the following weeks, and are available at the church office as well.

"DRUMMING CIRCLE"

The **Drumming Circle** resumed on **Monday, January 12**. If you are interested in participating in this great experience, contact Debbie Fingas at the church (905-372-7911).

"MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL"

For any Trinity kids, age 4 to 13, it is still not too late to join in the production of our annual **Mother's Day musical production**. This year, that falls on **Sunday, Mary 10**. Rehearsals begin on January 15, and if you would like to be a part of this wonderful experience, call Kristiane Charlton or Debbie Fingas at the church (905-372-7911).

"CELEBRATION DONATIONS"

Our **Stewardship Committee** asks you to remember your opportunity to make special **"Celebration Donations"**. If you want to mark an anniversary, a birth or any other special milestone or event, why not consider making a *celebration donation* to Trinity to mark the occasion. Many of us have enough "stuff" and you know a donation will be put to good use. Stewardship chairperson Dave Upton advises that there are special "Celebration Donation Cards" available at the church office that you can use to mark the special event, and pass on confirmation of your donation to the person being "celebrated".

Kristiane Charlton will be away on "study leave" from January 13 to 23. From January 26 to 28, Kristiane and Susan Ford White, one of our representatives to Cobourg Presbytery will be in Kingston, participating in final interviews for candidates for ordination from the Bay of Quinte conference.

For a ride to church in January, please call **George Lawrence (905-372-7470)**. If you **know** in advance that you would like a ride, a call to George a day or two in advance would be helpful, so he will know how many passengers he may have, and how many cars/drivers he may need to arrange. Do not be shy - the more, the merrier. Door-to-door chauffeur service with a smile!

We now have over 100 individuals and families receiving **"Keeping in Touch"** through their e-mail. We would really like to reach even more people to keep everybody up to date on the many activities at Trinity. So, if you have other items that the Trinity family should know about, please let me know. And if you know anyone who would like to be added to our e-mail circulation, please pass those e-mail addresses on to me.

In any event, for any reason whatsoever, feel free to contact me at my own e-mail address (or by phone etc. etc.):

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