

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH" JANUARY 19, 2010

My we are a good looking group. I have received my copy of our new PHOTO DIRECTORY, and have enjoyed looking through it. The photos are all of a very high quality, and even for those of us who have been hanging around Trinity for decades, it is really great to be able to put names to all the faces I have seen around the church, especially those who may be relatively new to the congregation. If you had your photo included in the directory, then make sure you get your complimentary copy, which will be available in the C. E. Centre after Sunday services, or by contacting the church office.

Our Sunday service this past Sunday was (as is most often the case) a wonderful service with great music, and a very effective message from Rev. Nancy Lester. Entitled "Water to Wine", her talk took its root in the biblical story from John's gospel about Jesus attending the wedding at Cana, and turning the water into wine. Nancy stressed that the story tells us that God wants us to have life, in all its forms, in abundance, and she posed that against the recent terrible events in Haiti, where as a result of the devastating earthquake, so many have been killed, injured, or left homeless. God moves us all to share our abundance with those less fortunate, and events such as this remind us so forcefully of our need to reach out to others. Nancy made mention that the United Church of Canada is already partnered with charitable organizations on the ground in Haiti, and in addition to donations which might be made to international groups like the Red Cross, or World Vision, donations can be made to Haiti relief through the United Church. You could simply deliver your cheque payable to "Trinity United Church" and note on it "for Haiti relief" and Trinity can forward money, or you could visit the United Church of Canada's internet website, which has links to make a donation on-line.

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, January 31 and you would then pick up your gift cards on Sunday, February 7. If you have any more questions, you could call Dave Upton for further information, or call me at 905-372-7537.

The Sunday Night Supper Club meets on the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. For a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship. Frank Sinatra famously sang that "Saturday night is the loneliest night of the week", but if for you that might actually be Sunday night, then this is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. Phone Marta Habermehl 905-372-5773 or Marjorie Christie 905-372-8013 for more information.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is this week (January 17 to 24), and the week culminates in a service of worship to which all are invited. This year the service will be in the Chapel of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Cobourg, 240 College Street at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 24. The Cobourg and District Ministerial Association is using this opportunity to support the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank, and would ask you to support that effort by bringing food donations either to our own service next Sunday (Jan. 24) or to the service at St. Peter's that afternoon.

Our next edition of our newsletter "INSIGHT" will be published for the Lenten season in the next few weeks. The deadline for submissions to be included in the next edition is Sunday, January 31. We invite you to submit information about upcoming events at Trinity, reports on recent events and any news about members of our church family that you wish to share.

Pictures and stories are always welcome. Submissions can be sent to our Insight editors Roger and Barbara Halligan at their e-mail address – blhalligan@cogeco.ca, or you could leave them in the Insight mailbox beside the glass display case in the hall leading from the C. E. Centre to the office wing.

Our Finance Division thanks everyone in the Trinity family for the generous level of their donations to the church coffers over November and December. The surplus of donations over expenses in those final two months enabled Trinity to substantially reduce the operating deficit that was looming for 2009. But in spite of that financial “sprint to the finish line”, we nevertheless did end up with a deficit at the end of the year of about \$22,000.00. So, the reality is that while that modest deficit may be seen as “manageable”, it is however piled on top of deficits which have existed from previous years. It is up to each of us to examine our own financial ability and determine if we can increase our givings in 2010 so that annual deficits can be eliminated and the accumulated deficit reduced. 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.

The ministers at Trinity, supported by our Worship Division and Outreach Division, conduct a number of services at nursing homes and seniors' residences during the year. Music plays an important part of these services. We also need volunteers to transport residents to and from their individual rooms and help with serving communion when necessary. If you can support this important part of Trinity's ministry, please contact Nancy Lester at the church 905-372-7911 or at her home 905-372-0308.

Our annual PANCAKE SUPPER will be held on Tuesday, February 16. This is both a fundraising event and a great chance to meet with friends for a wonderful fellowship evening. Volunteers are of course needed to assist with various aspects of the evening from cooking to set up to clean up. There will be a volunteer "sign up sheet" in the C. E. Centre after each Sunday service between now and then. And of course, we invite as many as possible to buy tickets and attend. Come and eat up big time – we do not call it "mardi gras" or "Fat Tuesday" for nothing!

After our regular Sunday service on Sunday, February 7, there will be a Congregational Meeting to hear the annual report of our Finance Division and to approve the proposed annual budget for 2010.

Our Christian Development Division invites you to a Skating Party on Sunday, February 21 from 2:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon at the old Baltimore Arena. There will be free skating and refreshments for everyone of all ages. Bring your family and friends, but we would ask you to leave your hockey sticks at home.

For a drive to church on Sundays in January, call George Lawrence at 905-372-7470.

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.

BRAD
Chairperson, Trinity Communications
Phone
E-mail: brad.halls@sympatico.ca

HALLS
Division
905-372-7537