

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH"

January 26, 2009

Hello, everyone. If you were at our service on Sunday, January 25, you will know that there were some emotional moments. It is always a moving experience to be at a baptism, and we were all thrilled to welcome a beautiful child, with a very elegant name - Marcus Lincoln Tennison Tracey, who is the son of Michelle Mead and Otis Tracey. We should all recall that we, as a congregation take an important role in baptism, as we join together to say "As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith, to help you learn and grow in the faith we share, and to cherish you as a part of the family." We were moved by some very beautiful music from both our Chancel Choir, and the delightful "High Spirits" group of young people, and by the message from Rev. Nancy Lester entitled "The Soul in Silence". And finally we were all greatly saddened by news of the recent death of Ganden Nornang. Ganden had served as the custodian at Trinity for almost a quarter-century, retiring only a few years ago, and moving with his family to Mississauga. Ganden had fled his native Tibet as a refugee, ultimately coming to Canada with his wife and starting a new life in Cobourg, where he raised his children. He contributed greatly to the life of Trinity through his dedicated labour, and his always quiet and wise demeanour. The entire Trinity family extends its condolence to his wife Yangchen and his entire family.

"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. From a great deal of input from the congregation as a whole, 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 has approached some architectural firms with experience in this field to help us explore several options in this direction. 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 Liasons*** 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.

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.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Financial issues are something every organization, certainly including churches, must deal with on an ongoing basis. Our Finance Committee deals with these issues on our behalf, and will be presenting our proposed 2009 budget at a meeting after the church service on **Sunday, February 1**. Trinity can only operate soundly, and provide the services it does to the member of the congregation, and the community and wider world if we all share our financial responsibilities. Please play an active role, and be sure to attend this meeting to be offered "a penny for your thoughts" or to give us your "two cents worth" - OK - that is the extent of my financial puns and cliches - but participation in these decisions is vital.

MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT

Our drama and music team for young people from Grade 7 and up - ***"Many Gifts, One Spirit"*** has begun their activities, and will be rehearsing after church services on Sundays. 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).

DRUMMING CIRCLE

The ***Drumming Circle*** has resumed and will be getting together on **Monday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m.** If you are interested in participating in this great experience, contact Debbie Fingas at the church (905-372-7911). A ***Drumming Workshop*** will be held on Sunday, February 8 at 1 p.m. Everyone interested should take note.

INSIGHT

Our Lenten edition of "***INSIGHT***", our church newsletter, will be coming out soon. The ***deadline*** for submissions of articles, photographs and other information about Trinity and the many activities here is ***Sunday, February 8.*** Please send any reports, news, items about members of our church family that you would like to share to our intrepid "Insight" editors, Roger and Barb Halligan. You can send them items by e-mail at or you can leave them in the Insight mailbox in the hallway of the C. E. Centre (beside the glass display case). Thank to Barbara and Roger for their continuing work to make "Insight" the anticipated excellent piece of ground breaking journalism that it is!

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study group continues on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and sessions will be held on February 11, 18 and 25. All are welcome.

SKATING PARTY

Our **Christian Development Division** invites everyone to come to our ***Skating Party***, which will be held at **Baltimore Arena on Sunday, February 15 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** Skating is free and there will be refreshments for old and young alike. Please join in and bring your family and friends. But please leave your hockey sticks at home thanks.

PANCAKE SUPPER

To me, just the words "***Pancake Supper***" tell me that spring is not far away. Because with "Mardi Gras", "Fat Tuesday" or whatever name you apply to the day, we know that the season of Lent begins, which leads us to Easter, which leads us to spring. Look - I will grasp at any hope of spring these frigid winter days like a drowning man to a lifebuoy. Our annual **Pancake Supper** will be held on **Tuesday, February 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.** So mark the day on your calendar, and give up that healthy diet thing you've got going for one night and chow down on a delicious meal of pancakes, sausage, desserts etc. etc. Stay tuned for further information. If you can help in the

preparation, clean up etc. I am sure that Wilf Quigley and/or Lloyd Williams would appreciate hearing from you.

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, May 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". Recent donations to mark important events came from **Harry and Phyllis Kelly** who marked their **55th wedding anniversary**. Also celebrating 50 years of "love and marriage" (as the Sinatra song says) are **Betty and Gerry Walker**. **Florence and Alan Fletcher** also celebrate the recent birth of their granddaughter **Riley Keeling** (the child of Florence's daughter Shannon and her husband Ryan Keeling). Congratulations to all. Keep this "Celebration Fund" in mind with a donation to Trinity to mark the special milestones in your life.

SECRET SCRIBES

In the past couple of years, we have held our ***"PEN PAL"*** activity and had great response from those who took part. This year, we wanted to add a little new twist to the activity, so if you sign up to participate, you will be "matched" with another member of the congregation. The twist is that the person with whom you are paired will not know who you are, and your goal is to exchange letters in which you will provide some clues to your identity, while not signing your letters to remain anonymous. Boxed will be provided in the C.E. Centre for you to secretly place your letters addressed to your secret pal. The letters will then be posted on the "Post Office Board" as we have done in the past, for everyone to check to see if they have mail. The person to whom you write must try to figure out who you are. In April, we will have our traditional potluck lunch after church, and you will be seated with your "secret scribe", and have a chance to talk and learn even more about each other. Thanks to the Christian Development Committee for all their work in organizing this creative activity.

FARE SHARE FOOD BANK

The Outreach Division is looking for a volunteer to take food donations weekly to the **Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank** for the month of February. If you can help, call Barb Williams at 905-372-9763. And remember, donations to the Food Bank are always appreciated.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH SCHOLASTIC FUND AWARDS

As you may know, Trinity has a **Scholastic Fund** which provides bursaries to young people from Trinity who have graduated high school, and are going on to post-secondary education. Our 9th series of awards were given out in September 2008 to **Jeffrey Bryson** (who is attending the University of Western Ontario), to **Jacob Burn** (at McMaster University), to **Laura Halligan** (at Sir Sanford Fleming College), to **Jenna Maxwell** (at St. Lawrence College) and to **Krista Naylor** (who is at Trent University). To date, the fund has supported 26 students from Trinity pursuing their educational goals. If you are a student planning to attend university or college in September of 2009, and are a member of Trinity, or your parents are members of Trinity, you are eligible to apply for one of the awards this year. Application forms are available at the church office.

For a ride to church in February, 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!

While we now have well over 100 individuals and families receiving "**Keeping in Touch**" through their e-mail, I **know** there must be many more members of the Trinity family that have e-mail addresses that we are missing. If you know someone who is *not* receiving "Keeping in Touch", but would like to, please simply provide me with the e-mail address, and we will add them to our growing list. 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.

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

BRAD HALLS, Chairperson, Communications Division

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