

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH"

March 4, 2009

I do not know if I was just a little "out of sorts" when I arrived at church last Sunday, but we were a little late getting out the door at home, and when we arrived at Trinity, the parking lot was already full of cars. Because it was quite a cold morning, and we had to park further from the church than planned, I was quite chilled when I got in the door. Then the C.E. Centre was full of people, and the coat closets were already full, and there was no hanger for my coat. I found myself grumbling to myself under my breath, only to suddenly come to the brilliant conclusion that a cramped parking lot and overstuffed coat racks were actually *wonderful* things to happen on a Sunday morning. They were just two more signs of a continuing growth and excitement at Trinity as more people come to the conclusion that Trinity provides just the right environment for their spiritual journey, and just the right opportunity to participate in programs that reach out to our membership, our community and the wider world. So, all I needed was the required "attitude change" and I promise in future to *celebrate* packed parking lots and crowded closets and I invite you to do the same.

THE BEGINNING OF LENT

As we enter the liturgical season of Lent, marking the weeks leading to Easter, it is tradition in many parts of the Christian world to kick off this season of spiritual reflection by "giving up" something for the Lenten season. But before we do that, we want to start out with a "bang". Now it might be said that our ***Trinity Pancake Supper*** on February 24 may not have quite the exuberance of *Mardi Gras* (or "Fat Tuesday" in English) in New Orleans, or the beautiful weather of "*Carnival*" in Rio de Janeiro, but fair to say that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and were treated to a great meal shared with good friends. Hats off to Stewardship Committee Chair **Dave Upton**, who captained a great team of volunteer cooks, serves and bottlewashers. Together we fed well in excess of 200 people, which I am told is an increase over recent years. Projects like this which raise valuable funds for Trinity while providing opportunities for contribution of time and talent and great fellowship are among the best projects.

OUR LENTEN RECITAL SERIES

Once again, we are thankful to our music department headed by Debbie Fingas, for organizing our annual series of lunchtime recitals on Wednesdays during the Lenten season. Each Wednesday, starting at 12:00 p.m. we are all invited to attend in the sanctuary to enjoy a musical presentation by one of a series of talented soloists or groups. We encourage you to enjoy as many of the mini-concerts as possible. The series kicked off today with a presentation by our own youth group ***Many Gifts, One Spirit***. Other guest performers over the next few weeks are:

Wednesday, March 11 - **The Dale Road Public School Band**, under the direction of conductor David Bryson

Wednesday, March 18 - **The Ancient Music Trio**, (Fred Cory, Julian Nelson and Deborah Henderson) with strings and woodwinds playing music from a variety of historical periods

Wednesday, March 25 - our own **Debbie Fingas and Kristiane Charlton** playing a variety of piano/organ and flute duets

Wednesday, April 1 - a recital by pianist **Stephen Baric**

You are invited to bring your own "brown bag lunch" and join in a communal meal after each of the recitals. There is also an ongoing bible study which takes place at 1 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon as well.

"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. In past months, the congregation has clearly indicated 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*. Moving forward, our Steering Committee has brought its initial recommendations to the Congregational Council. After considering the Committee's report, our Council has approved the funding of a preliminary design study of possible renovations and alterations to the sanctuary and the C. E. Centre. This study will be presented to Trinity by AECOM a national architectural firm with a local affiliation, chosen by the Steering Committee from several submissions made to it. The design study results will be presented to the membership for your continuing input in the weeks and months to come. 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*** presented "***Hymnstock***" on Saturday, January 31, when she and some of her "musical friends" presented 10 continuous hours of music. The selection of hymns and other music chosen by Kristiane, and including "requests" from the audience made for a wonderful day, and we thank Kristiane for her musical marathon and the committee of volunteers who supported her throughout the day. And of course, thank you to the many people who pledged funds and made contributions toward the cause, as the event raised approximately \$3,400.00 for the Trinity coffers!

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Our **Finance Division** presented our **proposed 2009 budget** at a meeting after the church service on **Sunday, February 1**. Financial decisions are often challenging, and it requires a generous spirit of consensus to come to conclusions about our financial situation. The proposed budget was approved by the congregation at the meeting. We are all aware that this budget requires all of us to examine closely our personal finances in an effort to determine if we can all find a way to increase our financial support of the church. We realize that in the difficult financial times that we are currently experiencing, it may seem difficult for Trinity to ask us to consider increasing our givings, but we all know that the excellent staff who lead us, the beautiful facilities we enjoy (even knowing of our need for continuing renovation etc.) and the valuable programs Trinity offers to its members, all make our increased givings to the church a very worthwhile and ultimately rewarding way to express our support for all those things.

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 have been 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 "**Elijah the Tishbite**" on Sunday, March 8, (and also performed the same piece during the Lenten recital on March 4. If you would like to join in this wonderful group, contact Nancy Lester at the church (905-372-7911).

INSIGHT

Our Lenten edition of "**INSIGHT**", our church newsletter, has been published and we hope you have recently received your copy. Thanks to all those who contributed articles, photos etc., and special thanks to **Barbara and Roger Halligan** for their continuing work to make "*Insight*" such an important part of our outreach to Trinity families.

CURLING BONSPIEL AND POTLUCK

Our **Christian Development Division** invites everyone to come to our **Curling Bonspiel**, which will be held at **the Colborne Curling Club on Saturday, March 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.** and there will be a potluck dinner at the Curling Club to follow. If you have not already signed up to participate, call **Caryn MacDiarmid at 905-377-8411**). The event is open to all ages, regardless of experience. Come on out and enjoy the fun!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year Trinity United will be hosting the annual **World Day of Prayer** service to be held on **Friday, March 6 at 2 p.m.** World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women from many traditions, who come together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer. The participants become aware of the sharing of this event around the world, and they are enriched by the faith experience of Christians from other countries and cultures. The special speaker at this year's event will be our own **Rev. Nancy Lester**. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FILM FESTIVAL

In co-operation with the Cobourg YMCA, Trinity is pleased to be able to be the host location for this year's ***International Women's Day Film Festival***. Three films will be shown (at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m) on **Saturday, March 7 in Trinity's C. E. Centre**. The first film is "***Offside***", directed by Iranian director Jafar Panahi, which won the *Silver Bear* at the Berlin Film Festival. It is an Iranian film in Farsi (subtitled) about a group of girls who try to watch the 2005 World Cup qualifying match between Iran and Bahrain, where women are forbidden from attending sporting events. This is followed by the award winning Spanish film "***Valver***", directed by Pedro Almodovar, and starring Penelope Cruz, who won the Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress at the recent Academy Awards. It is a movie about sisterhood filled with humour, sadness and change with women facing abuse, murder, estrangement, and pulling together. The final film of the series is the popular "***Muriel's Wedding***" by Australian director P. J. Hogan and starring versatile actress Toni Collette. tells the story of a socially awkward, daydreaming and naive girl obsessed with the music of ABBA. She struggles with her psychologically abusive father and friends and personal limitations as she tries to make her own way in life. Admission to any or all of the films is absolutely free, although there will be an opportunity to make a voluntary financial donation to offset the costs.

TRIP TO OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY FOR "PASSION PLAY 2010"

You are invited to attend an **Information Night** on **Friday, March 6 at 7 p.m.** in the Parlour in the C. E. Centre, to learn more about a proposed trip to see the world famous "Passion Play" in Oberammergau, Germany in 2010. The tour will also take participants to other parts of Eastern Europe, including Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic. The trip is arranged by Rostad Tours and will be led by our own **Rev. Kristiane Charlton** and her sister **Petra Richardson**. If you are interested in finding out more about this marvellous travel experience, come out to this information meeting, or contact Kristiane at the church office - 905-372-7911.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Our "Holy Week" services will take place during the week commencing with **Palm Sunday service** on **Sunday, April 5**, when we will celebrate with the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will then have services on **Maundy Thursday (April 9) at 7 p.m.**, to be followed by our morning service on **Good Friday (April 10) at 10:30 a.m.**, and culminating with our service on **Easter Sunday (April 12) at 10:30 a.m.** At this profound and beautiful time in the church year, we invite you all to attend at and participate in as many of these services as possible.

NANCY LESTER'S TRIP TO NICARAGUA

We were very happy to welcome back Rev. Nancy Lester from her recent visit to Nicaragua along with representatives of the Cobourg YMCA. As you know, under the leadership of our **Outreach Division**, last year we had a very well supported fundraising campaign to raise money to assist some local farmers in Nicaragua, who have recently had the opportunity to obtain ownership of their own small agricultural farms. What we learned they really required were simple, poured concrete floors for their small, humble homes. With dirt floors, these hard working families were prey to frequent illnesses and a continual difficulty with cleanliness and general health. Trinity was able to raise significantly more than we even had as our target, and thanks are due to all those who organized that campaign, and contributed so generously to it. We were very happy that Nancy was able to personally travel as part of our local YMCA-team to Nicaragua to see first hand the work that the YMCA is doing there to assist these rural agricultural families, and to observe directly the results of the generosity of so many of the Trinity families who supported this project. Nancy will have more to report to us in coming weeks.

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". Keep this "Celebration Fund" in mind with a donation to Trinity to mark the special milestones in your life.

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, Trinity Communications Division

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