

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH"

October 21, 2009

As the days of fall progress, we are told the member of the animal kingdom start to look toward winter and begin to slow down for a period of hibernation - but the exact opposite appears to be the case at Trinity, where fall activities seem to be building to an activity crescendo, with opportunities for everyone in the congregation to become involved.

Our service on Sunday, October 18 marked World Food Day, and to mark that event, the children of the congregation, assisted by the adult leaders, all trooped up to the No Frills grocery store and brought back a large quantity of groceries to be donated to the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank. This has been an annual event for some years now, and has proven to be a good way to teach our children about the difficulties of making financial ends meet for many families, especially during challenging economic times in which we find ourselves. It also clearly demonstrates to young and old alike the importance of sharing with others. We encourage everyone at Trinity to donate regularly to the Food Bank - there are always bins at the church into which you can place food donations, and direct cash donations to the food bank are always welcome. I know that at the grocery store where I shop most often, there are frequently pre-packaged bags of appropriate food right at the cashier's till, and takes only a second to add that parcel to your grocery tab, and then place that food in the designated Food Share bin right there in the store. Think about that next time you shop, or suggest to your store manager that they do the same.

After the service on Sunday the 18th, the entire congregation was invited to share in cake and refreshments to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Lynda and George King. Lynda of course is very dear to our hearts from her years serving as part of the clergy team here at Trinity, and hubby George is one of the more loveable rogues on God's green earth. So we were happy to join with their friends and family in a hearty congratulations!

Our service on Sunday, October 25 will include the sacrament of baptism, always a memorable moment in the lives of the families who bring their children to be baptised, and an important moment for all of us as we welcome them into the family of this congregation.

Also on Sunday October 25, 2009 at 3PM, come and join the Chancel Choir of Trinity United Church, Cobourg present an exciting new venture, a Festival of Hymns. Monies raised from this Festival of Hymns will be given to the Here We Grow Campaign for the renovation and greening of Trinity United Church. Trinity's organist and choir director, Debbie Fingas is eagerly planning for this event which will include not only the Chancel Choir with audience participation but, also, selections by a brass quartet from the Cobourg Concert Band, Trinity's trio and Mens Chorus, soloists and various percussionists including drummers.

Thanks to Nancy Lester and Cheryl McFarlane for organizing the group excursion to the Royal Ontario Museum to see the fascinating exhibit of sections of the world famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Two bus-loads from Trinity attended at the ROM in Toronto and to Nancy's great relief, the number of people who departed from Cobourg perfectly matched the number of people who arrived home safely from a very interesting day in the city.

Thanks also to all who helped organize the photos taken recently of member of the Trinity family, under the leadership of Patti McGlone, and all of the members who had their photo taken for our new Photo Directory. We hope to see the results, and all your smiling faces in the Directory, once it is completed and published. The Directory will help us all get to know each other better, which is always a good thing.

Thanks to our "INSIGHT" editors Roger and Barbara Halligan, and to all those who helped contribute articles and photographs to our regular quarterly newsletter. Thanks too to all those who contribute their efforts in the copying, colating and distribution of "Insight". We are particularly grateful to some of the young women from Falconhurst school who have been coming to assist with the putting together of the final printed product. Stay tuned for our Christmas edition coming out later this year.

On the subject of Trinity "communications", I would encourage you to regularly take an opportunity to visit the Trinity United Church website at www.trinitycobourg.ca. Our talented "webmaster" is our own David Lester, who provides great service in keeping the web site up-to-date. Recent changes have improved the web site's attractiveness and it ease of use. So visit the website for regular updates of church information and coming events.

Many of you may be familiar with the Trinity United Church Scholastic Trust, which provides bursaries for members of Trinity, who are graduating high school and continuing on in post-secondary education. The money in the scholarship fund comes from memorial and other donations, and contributions to the fund by Trinity members are always welcome and encouraged. This year, awards went to Andrew Halligan, who is studying in the fields of computers at the University of Guelph; to Callum Mireault, studying marine biology at Dalhousie University in Halifax; and to Sam Wiggins, who plans to specialize in sports psychology at Laurentian University in Sudbury. Congratulations to all, and best wishes for a great academic year (and some fun on the side) to all.

The campaign to raise funds for the proposed renovations and improvements to our Christian Education centre and our sanctuary is now officially underway. Operating under the banner name of "HERE WE GROW", the campaign is under the leadership of campaign chair Rhonda Cunningham, who is supported by a strong team of committee chairs and active Trinity members. By now, everyone in the congregation should have received a "Here we Grow" campaign package, including a letter of introduction, the campaign "story book" and a very effective DVD presentation with messages from our clergy leaders, Kristiane Charlton and Nancy Lester. This project is no doubt a very challenging one, both in terms of its plans and designs, and in the important work of raising funds to support these objectives. We urge every Trinity member to take time to think about your financial commitment to the church and this project in particular. During the month of November, every member of Trinity will receive a pledge card. We encourage you to talk to any of the campaign team members if you have questions or concerns. You can make a donation to the campaign in many ways:

- a one time cash or cheque gift, which can be mailed to, or dropped off at the church (although we recommend you not mail cash)

- by signing up for PAR (for pre-authorized remittance) which will authorize direct transfers from your bank account to the Trinity fund, on a weekly, monthly or annual basis

- by making a Securities donation, by donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds securities

Rest assured that every donation will be kept in the strictest confidence.

As part of this campaign, you will also have received an invitation to a wonderful congregational event "LET'S CELEBRATE TRINITY!", which is a complimentary dinner for the entire congregation to be held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at the Lion's Club Community Centre on Elgin Street East. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. for registration and fellowship and a buffet dinner will follow at 5:30 p.m. There will be some musical entertainment, some special programming from 7 to 8:15 p.m. and on-site child care for children 9 years old and younger during that period. We look forward to renewing acquaintances, making new friends and sharing fellowship, food, music and fun. As indicated, there is no charge for this event, and we hope to see as many as possible there.

The fund raising campaign has already been the beneficiary of two wonderful fund-raising events. Jeff McKague organized his "BIG BIKE RIDE" and along with his friend Keith Woods, Jeff rode his bicycle for more than 7 days, covering more than 1,000 km. in his tour around the entirety of Lake Ontario, raising more than \$1,800.00. That reminds me - I think I pledged a donation to Jeff's project, and I am not certain I have paid the money! Anybody else in that same boat? Now is the time to get your donation in if you have not already done so.

The campaign is very grateful to Ruth Harcort, for a wonderful concert on September 13, marking her 80th birthday, and her long and successful career as a singer on the Broadway stage, in opera houses and concert halls around the world, and especially here at Trinity. I can say personally that it was a genuine pleasure, and a true privilege to be asked to accompany Ruth, and along with some members from the Trinity Men's Chorus, it was an honour to share the stage with her. Ruth sang a wide variety of her favourite songs from so many different styles and eras, and a full house audience had a wonderful time. The concert raised about \$3,500.00 toward the "Here We Grow" campaign. Thank you so much Ruth, for the dedication of your time and incredible talent.

Thanks to the hardworking Stewardship Division, the organizers of our continuing popular "TASTE OF TRINITY" event, held this past weekend. Many Trinity members hosted many other Trinity members for dinner at their homes. The hosts contributed the cost of the meal, and the guests made a donation to Trinity equivalent to what they might pay for a fine dinner out "on the town". Everyone had the opportunity to share a great evening with some folks they may know well, or some they may be meeting for the first time. I am sure a wonderful evening was had by all, and thanks to all for their contributions to the cause. We are told the event will raise approximately \$2,500.00 for the Trinity coffers.

The Stewardship Division, now under the chairmanship of David McDiarmid, reminds us that one of the great ways to mark important events in your life, and to support Trinity financially at the same time, is to make a "CELEBRATION GIFT". Whether it's a birthday, a wedding, graduation, anniversary or other special event, your gift will be

noted by a personalized card commemorating the gift, and you will be comforted in the knowledge that you have given a meaningful gift that will make a difference. David's reminder has in turn reminded me that I have overlooked making a "Celebration Gift" to mark the birth of our second grandchild, a beautiful little girl named Pearl Elizabeth Harp, who was born in May, an oversight I shall correct forthwith. Do you have "Celebration Gift" announcements you would like to share with others at Trinity? If so, let me know, and I will include that information in future "editions" of Keeping in Touch.

Kristiane Charlton continues with her Bible study examining "The Psalms". The final session is on Wednesday, October 28 at the church from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. It does not matter if you were unable to attend the earlier sessions, you are welcome to attend this final one in any event.

On Saturday, October 24, Trinity is participating in a National Day of Action regarding the issue of climate change. To raise awareness, Trinity (along with other Cobourg churches such as St. Peter's Anglican and St. Michael's Roman Catholic) will be ringing their church bells starting at 12 noon. The bells will peal 350 times as part of our local Go Green Cobourg initiative. We could use some amateur Quasimodos (the bell ringer from Victor Hugo's "Hunchback of Notre Dame") to help ring the bell. I am told it would help if you were ovremer 5' 4" tall (in order to be able to reach up and grab the bell ringing rope). If you would like to share in this experience, call Kristiane at the church at 905-372-7911. In terms of climate change as John Donne wrote "ask not for whom the bell tolls - it tolls for thee."

The Christian Development Division is sponsoring a Dance for our younger generation (ages 8 to 12) at the church on Friday, October 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Christine McKague if you would like further information. The Sunday School will also be having their annual sale of Cookie Mix after the Sunday service on November 1.

The annual "HOLLY TEA AND BAZAAR" will be held at Trinity on Saturday, November 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The United Church Women (UCW) welcome the support from the Trinity family. Donations of baking, new and "nearly new" articles are appreciated (but we would ask not books). Barbara Williams of the UCW tells us that several new craft creators will have their products on display and for sale at this event. Volunteers to help with the logistics of the Tea would always be welcome, and you could call Barbara at 905-372-9763.

For a ride to church in chauffeured comfort in October, call Edna Waldie at 905-372-9410. Door to door delivery with a smile!

As chairperson of the Communications Division, I had a question from our "Question Box" referred to me by the Worship Division chair Carole Quinn. The author of the question asks - "Trinity Church no longer advertises its services in the local newspapers, probably for financial reasons. Does the church agree that this limits opportunities for ministry to members of the broader community? They no longer know where our church is located, who our ministers are, and when we meet for worship, if they have no access to a computer. We find this to be a significant loss." We thank the author for his or question, and we recognize the concern. Some time ago, the advertising rates charged to Trinity by the local newspapers were raised considerably, and simultaneously, the size of ad was going to be significantly reduced, resulting in a type so small that sometimes it seemed (at least to those of us whose eyesight appears to be aging along with the rest of us) to be almost unreadable. A decision was made that spending a fair bit of money on these ads was not money well spent, as we were perhaps not getting much of a "bang for our buck". Time will tell whether or not this has been a wise decision, and it is one we may revisit and reconsider. However, we can take some comfort in the fact that the number of people attending Trinity and participating in its activities actually appears to be increasing, and hence the suspension of these ads promoting our Sunday services may not have been actually detrimental. Thank you for your inquiry, and we welcome you sending me any other questions you might have, that I could then direct to the chairperson of the appropriate Division for a reply.

I invite you to contact me with any information or items that you believe would be of interest to those of us connected with Trinity. We have more than 150 families and individuals who now receive this e-mail newsletter, but if you know of anyone who would like to be added to our "mailing list", please let me know. Thank you to Cindy Hoffman, church administrator extraordinaire, for providing me many new e-mail addresses for our expanding "Trinity Address Book"!

BRAD HALLS, Chairperson, Trinity Communications Division

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