

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

"KEEPING IN TOUCH"

September 1, 2009

Well, here we are our summer hiatus behind us, looking forward to the remaining summer days toward fall and all the activity that it brings. I have often said that "New Year's Day" really should be in September, because it is now that we often put the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" (as Nat Cole famously sang about) behind us, and return to "real life", however you define it.

The same is true for everybody at Trinity United Church, and the church will soon be buzzing with activity again on many, many fronts. We hope to bring "Keeping in Touch" to you on a regular basis to keep everyone as informed as possible about the many goings-on at Trinity.

Our service on Sunday, August 30 included some wonderful special music by Cobourg native Daniel Wiersma and his collaborator on violin. The talented duo also presented a recital at Trinity later that same afternoon. In our service, we also welcomed several new members to our congregation, some by "reaffirmation of faith", some as a result of a transfer of their membership from congregations elsewhere. A very warm welcome to Marilyn (Sam) Tapscott, Angela Von Boetticher, Mary Ferguson, Dean and Eunice Tapscott, Kevin Caldwell, Shirley Robinson and Anne Wilson.

Rev. Nancy Lester returned to the pulpit after some weeks away, both attending as a delegate at the **40th General Council of the United Church of Canada** in Kelowna, B.C., and spending a bit of holiday time as well. She spoke to us of the theme of the Council - "The Potter's House", and the biblical metaphor of the potter who shapes the raw clay on her wheel into a beautiful work of art, or perhaps a practical jug or other household tool, just as our faith can mould our lives too. Nancy indicated that the United Church, like much of the world around is, is looking forward into a world that will see dramatic changes. Of course, it has always been thus, and from generation to generation, the world and our church have always faced new challenges and new ways of doing things. Welcome back, Nancy!

One of the true musical treasures of our very artistic community is **Ruth Harcort**, who this year celebrates her **80th birthday**. Ruth has been a stalwart of the music life at Trinity for many decades, but some may be less familiar with her very diverse and extensive career in the world of music, both her in Canada and in the United States. Ruth was born in the Cobourg/Baltimore area, and after graduating from local schools pursued music performance and music education degrees at the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario. Pursuing a performing career, she studied in New York, and became a regular performer with theatre and opera companies throughout Canada and the U.S., including stints with the Canadian Opera

Company, the CBC, and as a concert recital performer in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. She also worked in the areas of costume and theatre design at the Metropolitan Opera with such famous designers as Franco Zefferelli and Tony Walton. She has toured North America in musical theatre roles in such productions as "Carousel", "Finian's Rainbow", "Pajama Game" and many others. To our great good fortune, Ruth decided to return to her roots here in Cobourg in 1980, and in the decades since has devoted her time and talents to the musical life of our community, as a voice teacher, as a director of stage musicals, plays and comedies, and as a frequent featured performer in many local productions. She was for many years the chairperson of the Northumberland Music Festival, which provided learning and performing opportunities for an entire generation of young local musicians. And of course, she has played a leading role in the musical work here at Trinity, working with the Chancel Choir and sharing her gifts with everyone, young and old. To celebrate her 80 years, Ruth is giving *us* a gift. She will be presenting ***a recital of some of her favourite songs on Sunday, September 13 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary here at Trinity.*** Her repertoire is vast, and she will feature songs from many genres, from operetta ("Vilia", "Vienna, City of My Dreams") to the Broadway stage ("Lida Rose", "When I Grow Too Old to Dream"), from the lieder of Schubert ("Joy") to Rodgers and Hart's "The Lady is a Tramp", and songs from the secular ("Til We Meet Again") to the sacred ("Oh, What a Beautiful City"), from folk songs from many countries ("Road to the Isles", "Santa Lucia") to sentimental cowboy ballads ("There's a Goldmine in the Sky"). Ruth will be accompanied by **Brad Halls at the piano**, and will be joined by members of the **Trinity Men's Chorus** (or as they sometimes call themselves - the "Ah-Men"). **All funds raised from this concert will be dedicated to the "United Future - Here We Grow" campaign. Tickets are available now at the Trinity Church office, and will also be available at the door.** Come one, come all for a very enjoyable musical matinee.

Our **"United Future" organizing committee** continues its great efforts to move forward on our plans and dreams for renovations to our C. E. Centre and sanctuary. The project of course requires considerable planning and financial support and to that end, the project has organized its **"Here We Grow Campaign"**. The members of that campaign, including Campaign Chair Rhonda Cunningham and a large team of volunteer leaders, are all busy gearing up for the fall to promote, make aware and raise the funds required for the future "growth and greening" of Trinity United Church. There will be many opportunities for everyone to participate in ways large and small to reach our fundraising goal for this expansion.

Do you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? (With my occasional memory failings I sometimes wonder what my own name is). Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member, and could not put a face to the name? Are you new to Trinity and wish you had something to help you put names and faces together? Under the leadership of Patti McGlone and her team, we are in the midst of efforts toward the publication of an updated **"PHOTO DIRECTORY"**.

This new directory containing photos of as many of the members of the Trinity family as possible will help us acquaint ourselves with one another and strengthen the bond of our faith community. Similar to a high school yearbook, the directory will be custom designed, outlining the mission of our congregation, our activities and our history. We encourage every single congregation member, families, couples and individuals to participate by having their photo taken by a team of professional photographers. There is absolutely no cost to you for having your photo taken for the Directory, and everyone who participates will receive a copy of the new Directory. There will of course be the opportunity for you to purchase copies of your photographs in a variety of sizes and formats, if you wish to do so, but of course there is no obligation. Thank you in advance for your support of this program. You are all members of our church family, and our Directory is not complete without you. You can make a specific appointment to have your photo taken, either after the services on Sunday, or you can be up-to-date and do so "on line" by going to the Trinity website at and following the "links" to the details about the photo schedule.

One of the most popular fundraising projects of recent years is back again this fall, courtesy of the hardworking **Stewardship Division**. It is "**TASTE OF TRINITY**". For those who have not participated in the past, this is an event which offers you an opportunity for an excellent dinner out, joining with friends old and new. You can choose to be a host, and prepare a fine dinner for about 6 or 8 additional people at your home, or you could choose to be a guest and be waited on in a regal fashion. The "hosts" donate their time, culinary talents, the cost of the preparation of the meal, and of course, their hospitality. What we ask is that each "guest" make a contribution (all of the funds going to Trinity, naturally) of what you would expect to pay at your favourite restaurant for a fine 3 or 4 course meal. The event offers not only a chance for fundraising, but also a great opportunity for fellowship, and to get to know each other better. This year we are adding a new feature - if you would like to invite a friend or neighbour (someone who may not regularly attend Trinity), they would be more than welcome. We can perhaps make the activity at Trinity known to a wider audience as well. This year, **Taste of Trinity** will be held on the weekend of **Friday, October 16; Saturday, October 17 or Sunday, October 18**. Sign up sheets (on which you can indicate if you wish to be a "host" or a "guest" will be available in the C. E. Centre after Sunday services throughout September.

For a ride to church in chauffeured comfort in September, call Anne Sargent at 905-372-0380. Door to door delivery with a smile!

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 100 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.