

# Trinity United Church



## Advent 2013 Newsletter

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Put them on your Calendar!

#### Advent begins!

**Sunday, December 1st, 10:30 am**

Trinity Communion service

**2:00 pm**

an Advent Communion Service at  
Casselholme

#### White Gift Sunday

**Sunday, December 8**

for the Food Bank and Christmas  
Bag Outreach

#### Sunday School Christmas Pageant

**Sunday, December 15, 10:30am**

Potluck lunch

#### “School of Yule”

**Wednesday, December 18**

**7:00 pm**

Variety Night at Trinity!

#### Our “Longest Night”

**Saturday, December 21, 7:00 pm**

evening service

#### Choir Cantata Service

**Sunday December 22, 10:30am**

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

#### Christmas Eve

**Tuesday, December 24**

Family Service, 7:00 pm

Communion, 8:15 pm

#### Jesus Jeopardy

**Sunday, December 29 10:30 am**

## TRINITY'S PURPOSE:

### *A Message from Rev. Ted*

Jean Vanier, a member of the Order of Canada, is best known as the founder of the “L’Arche” communities that honour and serve developmentally disabled people. The mission of those communities, he says is “to transmit new hope and new meaning... revealing their fundamental beauty, value, and importance, their capacity to love and to meet God.”

What Vanier says about our developmentally challenged sisters and brothers is equally true of every community of faith. Trinity –like L’Arche—exists to provide hope and meaning, to remind you of your beauty and importance as a Child of God.

At Trinity you will find people like you: people quick to laugh, people who are cancer survivors, people who have criminal records. People who struggle with sickness or addiction. People who love their lives, sitting beside people who don't like their jobs. People doing their best to help each other, and lots of people doing extraordinary, inspiring things. --Many of these folks are not the ones you think they are!

What we have in common, as Jean Vanier suggests, is that we are

sharing hope. We’re discovering our capacity to make a difference, to find meaning, to love and be loved.

You’re a Child of God—forgiven and beloved. It’s that simple. Join us this Advent season, as together we experience the Yuletide season “on a slant”-- looking for those truths that we may not have noticed before. Hopefully we’ll manage to surprise, comfort, and inspire one another along the way.

Peace and joy,

P.S. Starting in March, we’ll explore a “Blues” Lent. Think of the secular song that most touches your spirit, inspires you, or makes you cry. If you have a request, or can sing or play us your favourite song live, that will help us explore the human journey together. I’d love to hear from you!

## *A Note from the Chairperson*

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# Let's review what happened here this Fall

The Christmas season is fast approaching. As we enter this period of preparation, let us take some time to review some of the things that have happened here at Trinity this fall.

The Board has continued its work especially through its committees. We now have a fully accessible bathroom. It is located at the entrance to the nursery. This was made possible by donations given to us in memory of Elaine Steele and Jean Dawn 2 faithful members of Trinity and the hard work of members of the congregation. A beautiful mural designed and painted by Nancy Dewar-Stenning has enhanced the welcoming environment in the nursery. If you haven't already be sure to check these new additions to our church building. The purchase of fire doors was also made possible by generous donations in memory of loved ones. Dedication of these doors will be held in the near future and a plaque will be installed to recognize these gifts. The annual apple pie project was completed in October. It was a lot of hard work but also lots of fun for those who were able to participate. These pies are

now famous and as a result anticipated each year.

We welcomed Shalome McNeill-Cooper into the congregation in September. Shalome will be with us until the end of April. She is completing her internship and we are fortunate to have her with us. We are sharing her with Carmichael United Church. It is a privilege and an honour to be a learning site.

### ***We welcomed Shalome McNeill-Cooper into the congregation in September.***

Last spring a number of us completed a questionnaire with regards to our knowledge of Stewardship within the church. We have now received our individualized report and it makes very interesting and in some cases surprising reading. We are now considering how we will share this information with you and how it can be of use in our work.

The Strategic Planning Committee (with input from Ted and Lisa) participated in the Comprehensive Review that is being undertaken by

the United Church of Canada. This information is being gathered from Churches across the country and a report with recommendations will be presented to the next General Council. It is an exciting but a bit scary time to be part of the United Church. If you are interested there is information about the purpose of the review and how it is being conducted on the United Church website.

The nominating committee of the Official Board has been formed and will soon begin work searching for new members for the Board. In the next few weeks information concerning the Board and its committees will be presented to the congregation. Please listen carefully and give your prayerful consideration to serving a term on the Board. It is through all of us working together that Trinity continues to be a place of welcome, worship and service.

In closing, I would like to extend to everyone, my best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy 2014.

Sincerely Janice Brownlee  
Chair, Trinity Board

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## ***Final summary of the Apple Pie project***

The 13th year of pie-making was a huge success again. The total profit was \$15,388.93 and 1602 pies were made. We were very fortunate to receive cash donations of \$2695.00 and equally fortunate to have so many people give of their time. On Tuesday, at lunch time, 60 people sat down to lunch.

This project has put \$120,000 into the church budget. It also provided pies for the Gathering Place Thanksgiving Dinner and apples for our Trinity Food Shelf.

The largest order (104) went to Nipissing Manor. Thanks to Eleanor, the residents of the nursing home had apple pie for Thanksgiving! Some pies journeyed to

Huntsville, Martin River, Chapeau and Ottawa.

Thank you to all who made it such a success. With such commitment from the Trinity people and friends, we have to keep this project going.

Respectfully submitted by  
Ed Rose, Shirley Tayler and a very faithful committee.

## Are we good at waiting?

Each year as we move into the Advent season we are reminded that Advent is a time of waiting, anticipating and preparing for the arrival of Christ in our midst. It seems that we are pretty good at preparing for Christmas – we busily prepare our homes and businesses with decorations, some of us begin our baking and our shopping, we begin preparing for pageants, cantatas, special services – we are really good at preparing! But are we good at waiting – at taking pause, slowing down and reminding ourselves about what all this is for? In all the mayhem of preparing for Christmas are we re-

mindful of the mayhem of that first Christmas? As you prepare for the season remember to be open to the unplanned moments, to listen to when you are being called to slow down and wait, to anticipate the arrival of Christ in our midst each and every day, and to prepare for the many ways that God calls us to be beacons of hope, joy, peace and love in our world.

May the blessings of the season be plentiful and may comfort and joy remain with you long after the season is over!

Grace and peace,  
Lisa

### *Some Special Gifts....*

#### *Source Unknown*

- a firm handshake to a shaky soul,
- a kind word to a lonely person,
- a warm smile to the disheartened,
- a sincere concern for someone troubled,
- a feeling of compassion for the neglected,
- a comforting thought for the bereaved,
- a respect for the dignity of others,
- a defense of the rights of individuals,
- a word of witness to help a seeking soul,
- a Merry Christmas to all.

### *Some musical notes...from Betty Farris, Minister of Music.*

## Special Christmas cantata, “I Hear the Prophet Callin”

What an exciting fall at Trinity Church! It has been a pleasure to be part of Trinity’s Team – Ted, Lisa, Shalome, Wanda, Peter and Ryan. On Sunday, November 3, we dedicated our wonderful new Senior Choir gowns. We thank the many Trinity groups and individuals for their support, as we worked together to make our new gowns a reality.

We are grateful to the J.O.Y. Band, the Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Marcel MacDonald, Matt Whitehead, Peggy Millar, Laura Farris, Bob Cook and Rob Sanders, for their special parts in our November 10 Remembrance Day service.

Our Junior Choir is blossoming under the capable leadership of Peggy Millar. We all appreciated

their participation in the Remembrance Service, November 10, as they sang “Dona Nobis Pacem”. Junior Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. New members (J.K. and up) are always welcome. We look forward to enjoying their singing several times during the Advent/Christmas season.

As we move into the Advent Season, our Senior Choir is preparing a special Christmas cantata, “I Hear the Prophet Callin”, by Pepper Choplin. This unique musical work celebrates the Christmas story from prophecy to fulfillment and is written with distinct musical flavours: Appalachian, Irish, Latin, and Cajun. The cantata will be presented during the service on Christmas Sunday, December 22.

This is exciting music that the whole family will enjoy! The Senior Choir is also preparing other special Advent/Christmas music.

On Sunday, December 1, we will welcome the barbershop quartet Heartbeat – Gerry Foster, John Holland, Chuck Buttigieg, and Barry Lajeunesse, to our service.

Our Senior Choir continues to welcome new members. A love of music is all that is needed. Please see me if you would like to be part of the choir. Rehearsals take place each Thursday from 7:15 – 9:00 p.m. Music is fun and is food for the soul!

May you and your family experience the peace and joy of this blessed season now, and all year long.

Betty Farris, Minister of Music

## During Advent I usually turn my attention to Mary

Advent is one of those times where I feel like I'm in a time warp. I'm participating in something that has happened, is happening, and will happen again, all within the same moment. It's like time collapses on itself and I'm anticipating and receiving all in the same instant.

Advent is also the time when we prepare for Christmas. So often it is wrapped up in the preparations that we forget Advent is about waiting. We seem to wait a lot in our lives: at the line up at the grocery store, the doctor's office, for someone to arrive at the airport, or even for laundry to be finished. But who are we while we wait? I'm sure we have all seen or been the anxious person in the line up checking their phone, tapping their foot, or distracting themselves from the 'wait'. But who are we while we wait? Are we anxious, pleading for time to pass? Are we reluctantly patient in biding our time? Or do we take it as an oppor-

tunity to experience the wonder of anticipation and excitement for Jesus birth to be with us once again?

During Advent I usually turn my attention to Mary in anticipation of Jesus arrival. She had months of waiting for the Emmanuel to be born. Who was she while she waited? We're told, "Mary pondered these things in her heart," after the Annunciation. I can imagine that Mary was excited to meet her child and probably afraid how she might be treated as an unmarried pregnant woman by society. But still, despite this chaos and uncertainty, she 'pondered these things in her heart.' There is a sense of joy present in those words, that despite the, "chaos and the clutter [she] cleared her eyes so [she] may see" (Lyrics Come and Find the Quiet Center). While she waited in a chaotic situation, she looked to her heart. She didn't avoid the chaos: it was how she lived in it that I admire.

There is such a beautiful message in the Advent story. In the very midst of chaos the Prince of Peace is born, who is already here and will be with us again. Who are we while we wait for the Prince of Peace to arrive? How do we wait with anticipation and hope, in patience and excitement? How can we savour the waiting and let Advent be a season unto itself? Advent Blessings be with you as we wait together.

Prayer: Holy One, author of Peace, thank you for the gift of time. Dwell with me in my eagerness and waiting to know your Peace. Help me to savour the moments while I wait for your arrival in joyful anticipation. Bless my time in the chaos as I ponder your beauty in my heart. Amen.

S. Shalome MacNeill Cooper, Intern  
Minister, Trinity and Carmichael  
United Church.

### Prayer Shawl Group

Prayer shawls allow the giver to wrap love and friendship around the someone. They also allow friends to "be" there when needed most. The recipient can always feel the love of others when words aren't there. Prayer shawls give quiet comfort to all.

We have many available for the asking. Please check with Wanda if you need one. If someone you know needs extra comfort at Christmas, maybe a Prayer Shawl will cuddle them with that love and warmth that only a hug can provide.

Prayer Shawl Blessings are held every second month. If you have one that you would like to give to a special person, bring it along.

Judy Biondi, Leader



### CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

Come early for a good seat at our family service, 7:00 pm on December 24th. That Service will include the scripture story and lively singing of your Christmas favourites. After the raucous 7:00 pm family service, there will be a brief quieter service of communion at about 8:15 pm. You, your family and your friends are most welcome at both occasions.



## Christmas Bag Outreach

Each year Trinity's youth group collects items for Trinity's Christmas Bag Outreach Project. Last year we provided over 150 Christmas gifts to children, youth and adults in our community! These bags are packed according to the age of the receiver and delivered the week prior to Christmas. We provide gifts bags to women and children at the Transition House, and Ojibway Family Resource Centre, to adults and youth at the Crisis Centre and Four Elm's Residence, Futures Youth Crisis Centre, etc. and to patients at the North Bay Regional Health Centre – Mental Health Forensics Unit.

Items that would bring comfort and joy to folks who need it would be appreciated. Some suggestions are: socks, slippers, treats, playing cards, games, toiletries, colouring and activity books, journals, crafts, etc. Christmas gift bags or money to purchase gifts are also appreciated. If you would like to donate \$20 for us to provide a bag for a youth or adult, we can acknowledge the gift with a card. Gifts can be purchased in honour of someone else or as an alternative gift for someone on your shopping list. Speak with Lisa Blais for more information.

Thank-you for your support of this important outreach project!



### UCW Report

The Fall Season has continued to be busy for the ladies including the continuing Rotary Luncheons, meetings, with some catering thrown in on the side. Christmas brings its own form of busyness with the bazaar, Trinity Arts evening, and Cheer Plates.

Our bazaar was held on a messy Saturday, when the weather couldn't decide what to do. The atmosphere in the Church, however, was warm and friendly. Many people gathered with friends to enjoy tea, and do some shopping. Upstairs, the skills of the ladies were displayed. We are thankful for the many talents of our congregation, from baking through sewing, and knitting.

Some of our ladies enjoyed the Fall Presbyterial in Powassan. The guest speaker was a Naturopath, who brought to us a different view of medicine. She will be returning for the Spring Presbyterial, so if that interests you, please join us.

In the spring, the ladies look forward to hosting Manitou Conference UCW. It is always a joy to open your church to people from across the region. Keep the last Tues. and Wed. of April open to join us for worship, singing, speakers, and entertainment. The more, the merrier!

Christmas is creeping up on us. May I, on behalf of all the UCW ladies, wish each of you a Blessed Holiday Season.

Judy Biondi, President.

## White Gift Sunday

White Gift Sunday dates back to 1904 in Ohio. The wife of a

Methodist minister and her two children came up with the idea of giving gifts wrapped in white paper at Christmas time to people in need. You are invited to bring gifts, money and non-perishable food items wrapped in white paper or cloth on Sunday December 8th for Trinity's special White Gift presentation. These gifts will be brought forward during worship and will be donated to Trinity's Food Shelf or Trinity's Gift Bag Project. Thank you for reaching out and sharing God's love with others this Christmas season!

Some simple ideas for making God's dream become real:

- buy some items to give to the food bank
- write a note of encouragement to someone
- visit or phone someone who is not able to go outside very often
- give someone in your family a hug
- bake some homemade treats and deliver them to people who would not usually have a chance to enjoy homemade cooking
- collect money to support organizations that provide low cost housing, clean water, education, health-care, etc. to those in need
- say something encouraging to someone

(suggestions from Seasons of the Spirit Congregational

# Looking at a new, better, stage for Mustard Seed

Winter is often a quieter time for our Committee as the Church is busy with it's regular activities and it is hard to fit in a big project.

At this time we are looking at building a new, better fit, stage for our Mustard Seed productions as well as other performances in the Sanctuary. Various avenues of funding this project are being explored as each section of stage is estimated to cost about \$125 and we are hoping to build at least 8 sections to replace the very heavy and unsteady sections which we now store up on the gym stage.

Outside lighting is being costed out for the laneway as the traffic in that area is in the dark since the

building beside us is no longer being used and they have turned off their outside light which we used as well. The external wiring seems to be already there and we think we just need to have a motion sensor light installed. The laneway is used every evening by our Out Reach Programs involving AA, Narcotics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous. All of which seem to have significant enrollments. These groups continually express their thanks for the opportunity to use our space for their meetings.

As always we tend to the everyday needs of the building. This week we are fixing one of the toilets in the Ladies Washroom, and repairing one of the doors under the

Sunday School Room Stage. We have also just recently replaced the taps and faucet in the kitchen, thanks to the UCW for funding this project.

This Winter we have arranged for our Custodian, Ryan Rozicki, to look after our outside snow blowing. A snow blower was donated and tuned up. An external storage shed was built and with any luck we hope that Ryan has a slow season of snow blowing.

Should you have any questions or see any area of the Church which needs attentions please speak to one of our Committee Members.

Thank you,  
David McKenney - Chair

*Dear Santa*

*I go to Trinity United Church Sunday School and I love it! We have learned about Jesus, how to pray, to love God, to share and to love others. We are very blessed to have really great teachers and a wonderful church family. Sometimes our teachers get tired because they have to do a lot of teaching. It would be nice if we had a couple more teachers to help them. Our teachers are like your elves. They are always working hard making sure everything gets done and that all us kids are looked after.*

*Santa, if it is not too much bother, could you come to Trinity United Church (that's the Trinity in North Bay Ontario, just in case you were going to mix us up with all the other Trinity United Churches) and bring us some new supplies for our Sunday School? We could use Bean bags (can be home-made), Washable paints, Glue sticks, Good quality children's scissors, Roll of butcher paper or newsprint, Medium sized clear bins for storage, Costumes - small sizes (animals especially).*

*Thanks and I hope you are not too tired when you are finished delivering all those presents to celebrate Jesus birthday.*

*Merry Christmas - Love Happy Trinity Kid*

## The LONGEST NIGHT Service



**On Saturday Dec. 21st at 7pm, members of Trinity United, along with friends from St. Andrew's United, will gather for a service of heartfelt music and candlelit prayer in the Trinity sanctuary. It's an opportunity for quiet engagement with the Christmas mystery on the longest night of the year. The Longest Night service has become for many an important seasonal tradition, as it acknowledges the mixture of loss, contemplation, and wonder that attends Christmas and the winter solstice.**

## From the Finance/Stewardship Committee

# VIEW from the VAULT

31 October 2013

### RECEIPTS

Offering	\$189,014
M&S	\$5,242
Sunday School/Youth	\$2,459
Swiss Chalet	\$226
Special Offerings	\$4,295
Fundraisers	\$22,534
Other	\$22,333
Alberta Relief	\$1,857

### EXPENSES

Salaries, Benefits	\$176,813
Utilities	\$13,926
C. E.	\$2,475
Operations	\$16,799
Property	\$8,685
Worship	\$1,740
Fundraising	\$4,286
Donations	\$1,857
Insurance	\$9,482
Other	\$5,344

Totals	\$247,960	\$241,407
Receipts - Expenses		\$6,553
Bank Balance Jan 1		\$13,261
Bank Balance Oct 31		\$19,814
Bricks & Shingles	\$4,913	Bricks & Shingles \$7,009
Fire Update	\$1,953	Fire Update \$3,084

Our offering continues to be about \$6,000 below our projection for the end of October but we did about as expected in October. Thank you for your continued support.

We have not contributed to our M&S budget commitment although there has been some over and above donations sent. Also the Alberta Relief money has been submitted.

We have our final payment for Presbytery also to be made in December.

Bricks and Shingles still needs your support and safety upgrades have been made to the lift. Both Bricks and Shingles and the lift will be about \$10,000 each. Your support of these projects will be appreciated.

Please be generous.

## Pastoral care and visiting committee

This committee acts as a liaison between members of the congregation who are not able to be out and about and the church body. If you know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please contact the office.

The schedule for communion services is as follows:

Empire - Monday November 4th - 10:30 am

Nipissing Manor - Wednesday November 6th - 2:30 pm

Cassellholme - Sunday December 1st - 2:00 pm

If you are admitted to the hospital, please register Trinity United as your church so that the minister and members of the committee can visit you.

The committee is responsible for providing greeters in the narthex every Sunday. If you would like to be a greeter, please let a committee member know.

## Ministry & Personnel

Our Trinity staff sprang right back into the swing of things this fall loading up our church schedule with many wonderful events.

In addition to that they are also looking after all those details that it takes to keep our church running smoothly.

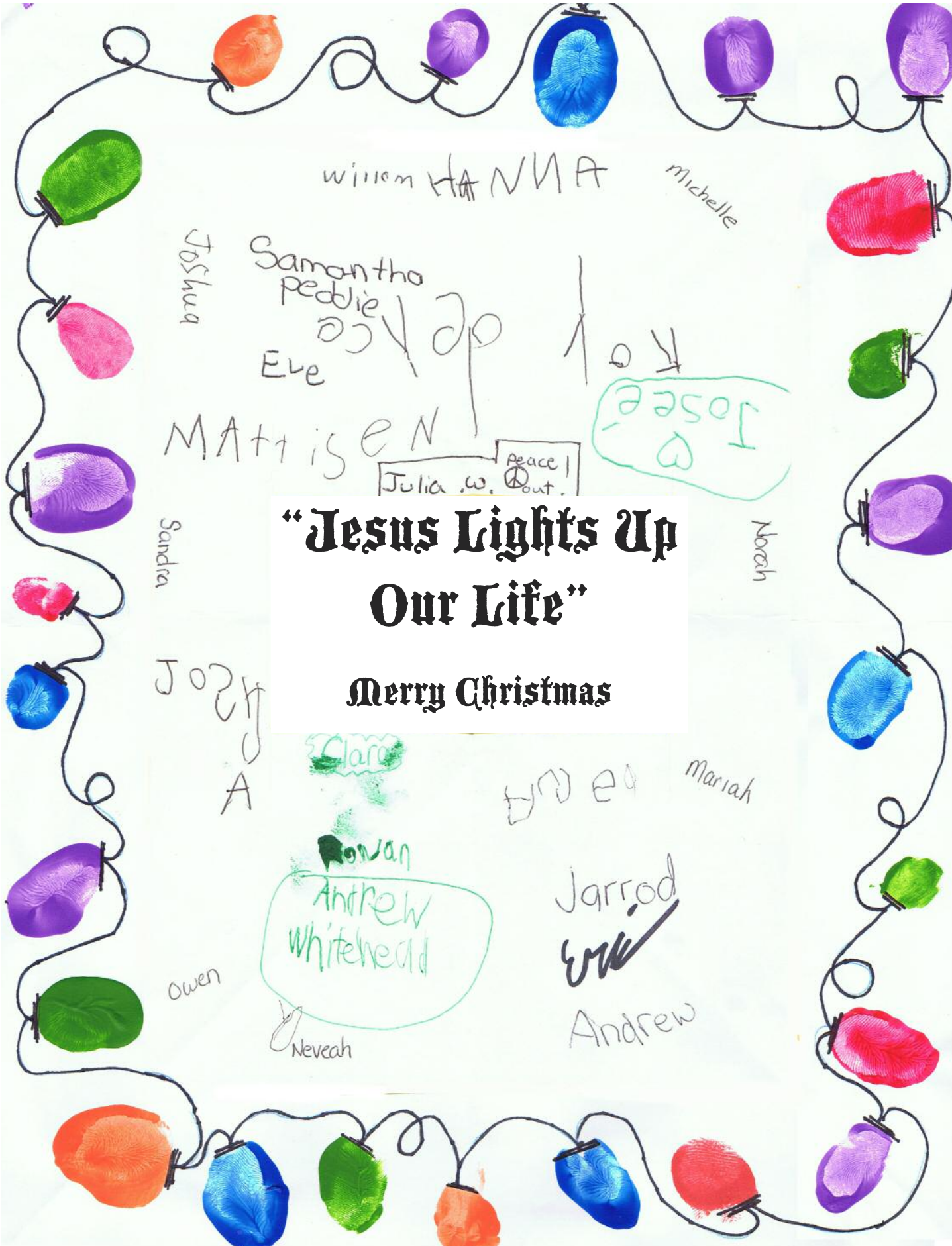
We welcome Alyssa Stanley, our key person in our newly renovated nursery.

Peter, our Treasurer notified us in early September that he will be retiring at the end of January 2014. We have been working to fill his position for the beginning of January so that we can capture his knowledge before he travels to warmer weather.

As we move into Advent we wish for all of our staff to enjoy the season and remind them of the sermon by the Flash on Halloween Sunday... to take time and slow down... but we add...keep doing what you do. We love it!

# THE TRINITY COFFEE HOUSE

On Friday January 17th at 7pm in Trinity's fellowship hall, join folks from all over North Bay for a night packed with music and laughter. Hosted by Trinity's own "Heavenly Hosts" band, the Trinity Coffeehouse has become a beloved new tradition of winter warmth! Sign up today to share your act!



William HANNA

Michelle

Joshua

Samantha  
peddie

Eve

MATTISEN

Julia w. out.

Josee

# "Jesus Lights Up Our Life"

## Merry Christmas

Sandra

Noah

Joey  
A

Clare

Wade

Mariah

Ronan

Andrew  
Whitehead

Jarrod

Owen

Neveah

Andrew



# Philippines Flood Relief



As you have heard the Philippines has been hit by a "super" typhoon leaving terrible destruction, and shortages of drinkable water and food. The United Church of Canada has responded initially with a \$10,000 contribution to partner organizations in the area to assist. If you would like to contribute to help the Philippines through the UCC, donations may be made directly to the Philanthropy Unit of the United Church or through Trinity. We will collect for a couple of weeks and then send a joint donation. Your donation will be included on your 2013 tax receipt. Please label your donation "Philippine Flood Relief". The Canadian government has announced it will match donations received before on or before December 8. Please make your donation by Sunday, December 1 so that we can get them to M&S in time.

For further information about the United Church's response please see [www.united-church.ca/communications/news/response/130823](http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/response/130823)

## “THE SCHOOL OF YULE”

***Wednesday December 18th at 7pm!***

Your friends from “Trinity Arts” continue the tradition of Christmas laughter, light, and lore with an entertaining evening of stories and songs that will help you to “Unwrap Christmas”! A talented group of North Bay’s finest readers and actors will fill the church with people, with stories and with songs—supporting “the Gathering Place” along the way. 7pm on December 18th. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, children (12 and under) free. See you then!

## Santa Clause Parade

After church on Sunday November 24th, Trinity Families will treat the congregation to hot dogs, hot chocolate and happy feelings of happiness!

At 1pm (after we’ve eaten) we’ll set up some comfy couches out on the sidewalks so that we can enjoy first-class, front-row seats as the Santa Clause parade makes its way past the church. Popcorn will be provided for everyone.

### ***Attention Trinity Parents/Grandparents***

Sunday School Christmas Pageanters are gearing up for another great Christmas pageant extravaganza. This year's performance will be *The Best Story: An Imperfect Christmas Pageant*. Practices begin Sunday morning during Sunday School time on November 24 until the performance day December 15th. If your child would like to be in our play (and we like them all to be in our play) we would encourage regular attendance during these few weeks. Shepherds and Angels are also encouraged to be here since we will be practicing the songs and trying to include as many actors in our spectacular performance as possible. We will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 14th (the day before the play).

Come one come all. For more information please see Lisa or Darlene.



# *The Best Story*

## **AN IMPERFECT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Directed by Darlene Laferriere  
Starring the Trinity United Church Sunday School



### **Trinity United Church Sanctuary Sunday December 15th 10:30 am**

Rehearsals begin Sunday November 24th during Sunday School. A full dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday December 14th at 9 am.

Come hear the Christmas story as told by the Trinity United Church Sunday School and plan to stay for a potluck lunch afterwards. Please bring your cold potluck items to the Sunday School Room before the service. Thank-you!

### **Baptism Sunday**

Sunday, January 12, 10:30 am  
(contact the office ASAP with your interest)

### **The Trinity Coffeehouse**

Fri Jan 17th, 7pm.  
Sign up your act today!

### **Trinity Board Meeting**

Tues Jan 21st, 7pm

### **Robbie Burns Sunday**

Sun Jan 26th 10:30am  
we celebrate Scotland's favourite Bard!

### **Prayer for Christian Unity**

Sun Jan 26th, 2pm  
Deadline for reports for Annual Report

### **Communion Sunday**

Sun Feb 2nd

### **Saint Valentine's Day**

Fri Feb 14th, 7pm  
A classy evening of Saint Valentine's Day music and poetry

### **Thinking Day**

Sun Feb 16th  
celebrate Scouting with us

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sun Feb 23rd  
after church

### **"Ultimate Superstar"**

Feb 28th and March 1st  
The "Mustard Seed" Production

### **Shrove Tuesday**

Tues Mar 4th  
Pancake Supper

### **"Blues Lent"**

Sun March 9th  
First Sunday in our "Blues Lent"  
(make your "Blue" music request soon)