

Trinity United Church 111 McIntyre St. E. North Bay, ON P1B 1C5  
Phone 705.474.3310 Fax 705.474.3311 email: trinitynorthbay@gmail.com  
Website: www.trinitynorthbay.ca facebook: www.facebook.com/trinity north bay

## *Advent Newsletter November 2017*

*... from Rev. Ted*


### **"DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE HOLY SPIRIT"**

There's a simple African expression about how to get the coolest and freshest water: "*Instead of digging many shallow holes, dig one deep hole.*" This advice also applies to the world of faith and religion: not that Christianity is the only path (that would be underestimating the Holy Spirit!) but if it is the path for you, then pursue it deeply, rigorously, appreciatively.

This is what we try to do at Trinity. With intention and appreciation, we savour the Christian story, we explore our shared history, and we pursue a lively faith-filled future. We simultaneously honour our past, and we cherish our future.

Gracie Allen once said to her beloved George, "Never place a period where God has placed a comma." With that same trust, we believe that God continues to be active in our lives. Why, to suggest otherwise is to underestimate the Holy Spirit!

If you encounter evangelism at Trinity, it comes from the same place. Because when our well sustains us with refreshing water, we're likely to talk about it - to joyfully share with others how and where we are being nourished and enlivened. Because if this Trinity church family can comfort and sustain us, surely we can do the same for others. Any other conclusion is underestimating the Holy Spirit!

Blessings to you and yours in this season of depth and joy. 

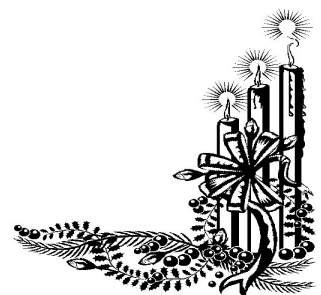
*... from Lisa*

Advent can be a tricky time for many of us - it is a season of contradictions. The Church reminds us that Advent is a season of waiting and anticipating - it urges us to slow down and enjoy the anticipation of Christmas. It is perhaps, exactly what we need most at this time of the year! Yet, ask almost anyone, "how are you," and their response will likely be "busy." We are really not all that good at waiting. We get caught up in the busyness and excitement of the season - craft shows, suppers, concerts, shopping and all the many exciting events that come with the season. It is good to be busy, to get swept up in the excitement, but it can also be a little overwhelming. And there is Jesus - right in the middle of all the chaos and excitement - reminding us to slow down and breath.

As you prepare for the season, enjoy those concerts, craft shows and dinners, but remember also to be open to the unplanned moments, to listen 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, DLM  
Faith Formation and Outreach Minister



*... from Dave*

Advent is a time of year which many at Trinity look forward to. It is the anticipation of the Christmas Season with its celebrations involving family, friends and other special people in our busy lives. It is also a special time for our Church Family, as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and enjoy the spirit which seems to seep out of the pews as the Sanctuary is transformed into a winter wonderland with beautiful trees and garland. We also are reminded of the marvelous story of the birth of Jesus read to us each Sunday throughout Advent.

The season brings our UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar, the Santa Claus Parade, the Cookie Walk, Christmas Readings, the Children's Christmas Pageant and of course the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day church services - wonderful ways to celebrate with family. It is my hope that each Trinity member will have a joyous and peaceful Christmas. Spend as much time as you can with family. Get outside and enjoy the beautiful community in which we live. Call a friend you might not have spoken to in a while. Hug those you love and also anyone who looks like they need a hug.

Jesus is born! Gloria in excelsis deo!

Respectfully,  
David McKenney  
Board Chair

*... from Betty*



As we move towards the Season of Advent, let us first reflect on a “musical fall” at Trinity Church.

We are grateful to the J.O.Y. Band, Junior Choir, and Marcel MacDonald, for their special musical contributions during our Sunday, November 12th Remembrance Day service.

Our Junior Choir is thriving under the capable leadership of Peggy Millar. Junior Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 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.

Sunday afternoon, November 12th, we welcomed the J.O.Y. Band, as they presented “Musical Memories of the War” years. What a great afternoon it was! Thank you to all who helped in the kitchen, the stage builders, the elevator operator, and all who helped with the organization and publicity for the concert. Through the generosity of our audience, a sizable donation was made to the North Bay Crisis Centre.

Thank you especially to all who attended our concert, and warmly welcomed visitors with wonderful Trinity spirit. We hope to repeat this enthusiasm on **Sunday, December 10th!** The J.O.Y. Band and Joy Band “Too” are presenting their Christmas concert, “Sweet Sounds of Christmas”, at Trinity at 2:00 p.m. This is an afternoon that the whole family will enjoy. A carol sing-a-long will start at 1:30 p.m. Complimentary refreshments will follow the concert.

As we move into the Advent and Christmas Season, our Senior and Junior Choirs have been preparing special music!

On **Sunday, December 17th**, the Senior Choir, Junior Choir and the Joyful Bells will present “*Ring and Sing in Christmas*”, a Christmas musical afternoon for the whole family. There will be a congregational luncheon following the morning service. A carol sing-a-long will follow at 1:00 p.m., with the concert beginning at 1:30 p.m. The Senior Choir, supported by 10 instrumentalists, will present our Christmas cantata, “*I Hear the Prophet Callin’*”. This beautiful music, with an Appalachian flavour, is a favourite with our choir, and we look forward to sharing it with family and friends. The Junior Choir and Joyful Bells will present special music selections for the Advent and Christmas season.

May the hope, peace, joy and love of this blessed season remain with you and your family throughout the year.

Betty Farris,  
Minister of Music

*... from the Finance Committee*

Here are some high level observations about our financial situation as of the end of October.

- Our offerings are up over last year, and even slightly better than budgeted. We're still a bit behind where we were at this time 2 years ago but it looks like we might catch up by the end of the year. Thank you all!
- Observer income is up over previous years. Thank you all!
- We've taken ourselves off of the Union Gas equal billing plan. This won't save us any money but the expenditures will align better with our income curve and our fiscal year-ends.
- We are still forecasting a deficit, but it's looking like it'll be less than we budgeted.

We'll have our annual "pill-bottle" Advent offering again this year. The charities will once again be Pack-Sac Smiles and Sleeping Children Around The World. We'll have more information in the bulletins during Advent. We're also working on next year's Teller's schedule and next year's Budget.

I'm sure you'll all agree that Trinity is a great community to be a part of. Not only do we have beautiful Sunday services and a growing Sunday School, but we also help those in need through initiatives like our food bank and mother care, and support the work of the greater United Church through M&S. And there is almost always some activity going on in our church, helping to grow our community. Through your weekly donations, in memoriams, estate givings, fundraising and other income we are able to keep the church maintained and heated to support all these activities in a safe and comfortable manner. Please take a moment to review your own giving. Every dollar helps!

Thank you for all that you do,  
your Finance Committee

*... from the Pastoral Care & Visiting Committee*

Our committee has had another busy year. We visit the hospital, nursing homes and retirement homes on a regular basis. We will also do home visits when needed. We regularly have communion services in the nursing/retirement homes during the Advent and Lenten seasons.

The Advent Services for 2017 are:

- Cassellholme: Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- Empire Living: **Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**
- Marina Point: **Tuesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**

We would like to thank Rev. Ted, Betty Farris and members of the choir for making these services\ special. Our committee also looks after getting greeters for the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

When you, or a loved one, is admitted to the hospital please notify the church, Rev. Ted or the Pastoral Care Committee. Also, make sure to designate Trinity as your home church.

The members of our committee, with help from our congregation, work hard to make Trinity a welcoming church.

Co - Chairpersons:

Noreen Brewer 705-474-3901

Claudette dePencier 705-474-3209

*... from the Prayer Shawl Group*

We have had an interesting last couple of months. There have been some baptisms, and the associated presentation of blankets to the families. We also had a blessing of about 10 shawls/lap robes. These robes are available by contacting Wanda at the Church Office. Those who have received them seem to be quite appreciative.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated yarn so that we can create these shawls. At present, we have "overflowed the cupboard". If you want yarn to start, or complete your handiwork, please help yourself. A big thanks to Ross Brewer who prints the cards that accompany our creations.



Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Biondi, Leader.

... from the UCW

The fall has been quite "normal". We have had our Friday Luncheons, and our meetings as usual.

During the late summer, we were able to honour Vi Close, a long-time UCW supporter, as well as long-time Trinity member, Bill Maass by serving at their Celebration of Life.

The UCW celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Trinity's 10:30 am Family Worship service on November the 5<sup>th</sup>. Many enjoyed cake following the service. Thanks to all who participated in the service.



A BIG thank you to all who participated in our "Victorian Christmas" Tea and Bazaar on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The fellowship experienced as we decorate, make up plates for the tea, arrange items for sale, and just visit with each other is second to none.

Don't forget to watch the Parliamentary Channel to see the "Poverty Dolls" in the House of Commons. This happens on **Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**. Our Conference President, Dawn Monroe from Cochrane, will be in the Gallery.

The UCW would like to extend an invitation to all church ladies to join us for lunch at Cecil's on **Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**. The programme will be about Christmas. Let Judy know if you are interested.

All the members join me in wishing everyone a happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Biondi, President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Give yourself an hour  
It's a great story!*

**Rime  
of the  
Ancient  
Mariner**  
by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

A Live Presentation by DAVID FOX  
Directed by TED JOHNS

Trinity United Church  
Saturday November 25th at 2pm  
\$15 adults, \$10 Students (at the door)  
Proceeds support Trinity Church  
Call Trinity 705-474-3310 for advance reservations

### Youth ADVENT Study

All youth in Grade 7 and up are invited to take a deeper look at the Christmas season. We will unpack the Christmas stories each Sunday through craft, cooking and discussion.

Sundays **November 26, December 3, December 10, December 17<sup>th</sup>** in the fireside room from **11:45 to 1 pm**. Bring a lunch

### 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 on **Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>** for Trinity's special White Gift presentation. These gifts will be brought forward during worship and will be donated to Trinity's Food Shelf Ministries or Trinity's Gift Bag Project.

Thank you for reaching out and sharing God's love with others this Christmas season!

## Christmas Bag Outreach

The Trinity Youth will be collecting items for the Christmas Bag Outreach Project. Last year we provided **over 150 Christmas gifts** to 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 gift bags to women and children at the Transition House, and Ojibway Family Resource Centre, to adults and youth at the Crisis Centre, Four Elm's Residence, Futures Youth Crisis Centre, Nipissing Attendance Centre, etc. and to patients at the North Bay Regional Health Centre - Mental Health Forensics Unit and Long Term Care.

These bags are always warmly received and very much appreciated! If you would like to contribute to this project please bring any of the following items to Trinity United Church on **White Gift Sunday (December 10<sup>th</sup>)** or to Lisa by **Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>**. **Christmas gift bags and money for us to purchase the needed items are also appreciated.**

### *For Men and Women*

- personal items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, shampoo, *(please no hotel soaps – we have enough)*
- socks, slippers, mittens
- puzzle and word books, playing cards
- treats (candy, chips, chocolate, etc.) *\*\*\*please keep these separate from any soap products\*\*\**
- diabetic/sugar-free treats
- any other item that might provide comfort (journals, gifts, books, mugs, etc.)

### *For Youth - with an emphasis on teens and young adults*

- personal items: bubble bath, toothbrushes, soap, lotion, etc.
- socks, slippers, hats and mittens
- colouring and activity books
- videos, books or DVD's
- games and craft items
- toys (no stuffed toys please)
- treats (as above)
- any other items that you think a youth might enjoy

**Thank-you for supporting this important outreach project**



### ***"A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS":***

Wrap yourself in a patchwork quilt of seasonal story and song. The stories and songs begin at **7pm on December 14<sup>th</sup>** but the **sing-a-long carols** begins at **6:30**. Tickets are \$15, children (12 and under) are free! Your ticket price supports "the Gathering Place."

#### **Featuring:**

Rod Carley, Tracey Berti, Darlene Laferriere, Bob Wills, Ted Harrison, Rowan MacDonald, Amelia MacDonald and the Dreamcoat Children's Choir.

### ***NEW YEARS SILENT AUCTION: An Evening You Won't Forget!***

The "Trinity Arts" committee is hosting a silent auction for a Rat-Pack themed New Year's Evening for 8 lucky auction bidders. It will feature black tie service, music, laughter, and a delicious meal of at least 5 courses! The minimum bid is \$100 per plate for a magical New Year's evening at the Stenning residence. The winners of the "New Years Silent Auction" will be announced at "A Canadian Christmas" on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, with proceeds to Trinity's "Cushie Tushie" fund!



**TRINITY FAMILIES INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH YOUR TRINITY FRIENDS.**

***Trinity Games Night***

Trinity hosts a Friday evening games night. All those interested in board games, card games, strategy games, etc. come on out! **Fridays 6:30 -10 pm.** Ages 15+ (unless accompanied by an adult)

***Santa Claus Parade VIP Seating***  
**Sunday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Noon - 1:30 pm**

Watch the parade with your Trinity friends right outside our door! Hotdog lunch after church followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows to watch the parade.

***Trinity Families Supper before the Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas Walk***  
**Friday Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 5 - 6 pm**

Chili and Baked Potato Bar

***Trinity Families Winter Retreat***

**Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> 1 pm – Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> 11 am**

Spirit Point Wilderness Academy, Mink Lake Road, Trout Creek

Join us at Spirit Point Wilderness Academy for a fun-filled Family Day weekend! Outdoor games, skating, family worship, campfires, warm indoor activities and more! Registration: \$75 Adults and \$50 per child (12 and under) for the first two children and then \$25 per child for any additional children. Children under 3 are free.

Extra Room Rental: \$25 per room (sleeps 4) - IF AVAILABLE

Spirit Point is located on the northwest corner of Algonquin Park. [www.spiritpoint.ca](http://www.spiritpoint.ca)  
Registration deadline **February 4, 2018.** *First come, first served - last year was sold out!*

For more information and to register please contact

Marcel MacDonald at [glen\\_slim@hotmail.com](mailto:glen_slim@hotmail.com) or Lisa Blais at [blais.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:blais.trinity@gmail.com)

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

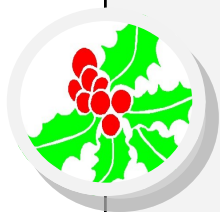
*The Story of Jesus' Birth as told by Gabe and the Angels*

Directed by Darlene Laferriere, accompanied by Eric Brownlee

Come hear the Christmas story as told (and sung) 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!

***The LONGEST NIGHT Service***

The Advent and Christmas seasons can inspire profound highs and lows in our lives. On **Thursday Dec. 21st at 7pm**, members of Trinity United, along with friends from St. Andrew's United, will gather for a service of heartfelt string music and candlelit prayer in the Trinity sanctuary. It's an opportunity for a spacious pause, to contemplate the hopes, fears, and prayers that fill that longest night of the year.



### ***CHRISTMAS EVE***

Come early for a good seat at our family service, **7pm on Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>**. That Service will include the scripture story and lively singing of your Christmas favourites. After the raucous 7pm family service, there will be a brief quieter service of **communion at about 8:15pm**.



### ***SOUP TASTING NIGHT***

Join us in the Trinity Fellowship Hall on **Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm** for our popular “Soup Tasting Night” sponsored by the “A.O.T.S.” Men’s Group. It’s “Mmm-Mmm” good!



### ***THE TRINITY COFFEEHOUSE***

On **Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, Trinity’s fellowship hall is transformed into a mass Rec Room. Join folks from all over North Bay for a night packed with talent and laughter. The Trinity Coffeehouse has become a beloved tradition that brings more and more remarkable local talent into the Trinity spotlight! A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Fellowship Hall.

### ***Red Hot Friday Night: Chili Cook-off***

**March 23rd**

**All Welcome! Come on out and enjoy some delicious chili and listen to some great music! Free Will Offering.**

**Prizes for Fan Favourite and Runner up as well as Best Dressed and Best Name.**  
For more information contact Rob Sanders at [eeffoc@gmail.com](mailto:eeffoc@gmail.com)

## **FOR YOUR FRIDGE: DATES-AT-A-GLANCE**

- ♦ Sat Nov 25<sup>th</sup> - 11am - 2pm 4Trinity Cookie Walk
- ♦ Sat Nov 25<sup>th</sup> - 2pm “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” live with Theatre Legend David Fox
- ♦ Sun Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10:30am Advent Communion service
- ♦ Sun Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - White Gift Sunday, followed by “JOY Band” Christmas Concert
- ♦ Thur Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm “A Canadian Christmas” (Sing-a-long begins at 6:30!)
- ♦ Sun Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Pageant and 2pm afternoon Choir Cantata
- ♦ Thur Dec 21<sup>st</sup> - 7pm Our “Longest Night” evening service
- ♦ Sun Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Christmas Eve Family Service, 8:15pm Communion,
- ♦ Sun Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am Baptism Sunday (contact the office ASAP with your interest)
- ♦ Fri Jan 12<sup>th</sup> - 5 pm Trinity Soup Tasting Night hosted by Trinity AOTS!
- ♦ Fri Jan 19<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm The Trinity Coffeehouse - sign up your act!
- ♦ Sun Jan 21<sup>st</sup> - 10:30am - Robbie Burns Sunday, followed by 2pm “Christian Unity Service” at St. Bryce’s Anglican church
- ♦ Sun Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - Trinity Family Snowshoe afternoon
- ♦ Sun Feb 11<sup>th</sup> - Thinking Day: celebrate Guides and Scouts with us!
- ♦ Trinity Families Retreat: Family Day Weekend, February 17,18 &19 (numbers are limited)
- ♦ Tues Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - 5 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- ♦ School March Break: March 12<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Fri March 23<sup>rd</sup> “Red Hot Chili Cook-Off” Dinner
- ♦ Sun Mar 25<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday
- ♦ Thur Mar 29<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday all-night Trinity Youth Vigil
- ♦ Fri Mar 30<sup>th</sup> - 8am Good Friday AOTS Breakfast at Trinity before Good Friday service
- ♦ Fri Mar 30<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am Good Friday service, Emmanuel United Church
- ♦ Sun Apr 1<sup>st</sup> - Easter Sunday: 7:30am Sunrise and 10:30am Communion services

