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Advent Newsletter November 2018

"THE MIRACLE OF ENOUGH": A Note from Rev. Ted's Desk

Maybe you remember this story from the life of Jesus: The Disciples approach Jesus (surrounded by many followers, far from their favourite pizzeria) to alert him that it's meal-time, and there's no food! Part of the familiarity of the story is that we read it over and over - that it appears no less than six times in our four Gospels signals the importance of the story.

You know how the story goes: A schoolkid offers up the contents of his boxed lunch - and perhaps he inspires others to do likewise. I understand this story to be one of sufficiency, of 'enoughness.' That when we welcome the Spirit of Holiness into our community, there is a remarkable abundance - not only of food, but of talent, dedication, compassion, and resources.

This miracle is one that we've come to rely on at Trinity. That when we recognize a need and share that need - there is a blessed response. Recently we've experienced this with our brick project, with our "Cushie Tushie" fund, with the "100 women" who responded to the needs of our Trinity Infant Food Shelf. Here's what happens: we see a need, we share that need, *and our prayers are answered!*

If you're reading these words, then you probably know yourself to have been a part of that response. Not only have you been a part of those prayers, you have been a part of answering those prayers. God has blessed you, and blessed our church family through you. What more can we want than to be fed and fulfilled through a genuine Jesus-style miracle?

Friends, this season may you come to know yourself as a Christmas blessing. Because you are! 

... from Lisa

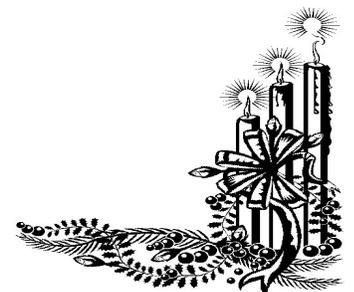
Christmas seems to come earlier each year. The other day I was in a local store to pick up a few things for Sunday School and I was surprised to see that there were Christmas items already on the shelf - weeks before Hallowe'en! Sometimes it seems that we are rushing from one event to another, barely taking time to enjoy the moment before we are on to another thing. It is wonderful to get caught up in the excitement and anticipation of the season, but sometimes we need to be reminded to get *caught up* in the present too - to pause - to savour the moment! Advent is a perfect reminder to do just that - to pause, take a deep breath, and then dive in.

As you read through this newsletter you will find many ways to enjoy the season (and beyond) - concerts, theatre and storytelling, food and festive occasions, and of course, plenty of space for thought provoking worship.

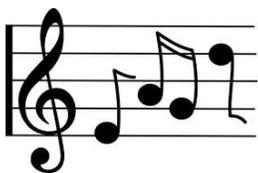
Some Advent advice:

- Thank and be kind to those in the service industries - remember they are working through the "busyness" of the season and often dealing with stressed out people
- Look for unexpected kindnesses and grace filled moments
- Be gentle with yourself, and with your neighbors and friends
- Do a random act of kindness
- Take time to visit or share a meal with someone who is alone or ill
- Begin and end your day in gratitude

~ Lisa Blais – Faith Formation and Outreach Minister ~



Some musical notes...from Betty Farris



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

Sunday afternoon, November 4th, we welcomed the J.O.Y. Band, as it presented “Musical Memories of the War” years. What a great afternoon it was! Thank you to all who assisted 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 donation of \$1515 was made to the Gathering Place. Peggy Millar’s rendition of **“I’ll Be Seeing You”** was a tribute to a special Trinity Church World War II veteran, the late Ken Whitehead. Thank you also to our Junior Choir, who delighted our audience with two musical numbers.

We are grateful to the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Peggy Millar, Laura Farris and Marcel MacDonald, for their special musical contributions in our Sunday, November 11th Remembrance Day service. Also, thank you to Don Clysdale, and Rod Carley and his Canadore students, for their special presentations about Trinity war veterans.

Sunday, December 16, at 1:30 p.m., both J.O.Y. Bands will present their annual Christmas concert, **“A Most Wonderful Christmas”**. A carol sing-a-long will start prior to the concert, at 1:00 p.m. This is an afternoon that the whole family will enjoy. Complimentary refreshments will follow the concert.

On Sunday, December 23, the Senior Choir will present **“One Silent Night”** at the 10:30 a.m. service. This beautiful cantata, by Pepper Choplin, is a Christmas ballad of love and joy. It features scripture narration, soloists, and instrumentalists.

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.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Farris, Minister of Music

... from the Finance Committee



As most of you are aware, the October 30th church bulletin included a view from the vault prepared by Bill Brownlee. Thanks to Bill for providing this summary of the church’s September 2018 year-to-date income and expenses. The deficit shown of \$6,852 compares very favorably with last year’s deficit of about \$30,000 for the same period. Next month’s income will be positively affected by revenue from the apple pie project. Thank you to all who participated in this important project.

September 2018 YTD total and PAR Offerings show increases of 3% and 6% respectively over last year’s amounts. We appreciate your ongoing contributions, including for the upcoming Advent Offering Project, which is outreach to two charitable organizations. If you could find it in your heart to make a special Christmas offering for Trinity’s general account, it would be much appreciated.

A very positive 2018 income area is Building Rentals, which is up more than 200% due to movie company rentals and the dressing room collective.

Total YTD expenses of \$268,000 are 13% lower than 2017, with a significant factor being lower costs for building upgrade projects. Costs for some expense items, however, continue to increase including water, heat, hydro and insurance.

Following several recent contributions, we are now only a few hundred dollars short of covering expenses for the pew cushions. Our Food Shelf Operating Fund has received a real financial boost thanks to the 100 Women for 100 Hours Project.

We encourage you to consider getting on PAR if possible. Folks from the Stewardship Committee will be outlining at least one PAR initiative in the near future.

Thank you for all that you do, your Finance Committee

... from the Pastoral Care & Visiting Committee

Our communion dates have been finalized for the seniors residences.

Casselholme Monday, Nov. 12th at 10:30 a.m
Marina Point Monday, Nov. 19th at 2 p.m.
Empire Living Monday, Nov 26th at 10:30 a.m.

Anyone who would like to join us for these special services is most welcome.

We continue to visit those in the hospital and nursing homes and anyone who has requested a visit from the Pastoral Care group.

We have celebrated the "Over 90's" birthdays with Anne Steele, "Bobbi" Fisher and Al Moyer in October. November is Mary Featherston, Thelma Patterson and Kay Ranger. Pearl Salmon turns 100 on December 15th. These are such special members.

Co - Chairpersons:

Noreen Brewer 705-474-3901
Claudette dePencier 705-474-3209

... from the UCW

It has been a quiet fall for us. Our Conference President attended National UCW in Toronto, and brought back the report that we can basically do as we please with the reorganization of the church. Manitou UCW will be joined by Algoma Presbyterial, and part of Cambrian Presbyterial.

Our Annual Christmas Tea and Bazaar was held on November 10th. It is only with the cooperation of everyone that the bazaar is a success. It certainly is proof that when we all work together, much can be accomplished. Of interest, it has been decided that the bazaar in 2019 will only run for 2 hours from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

At our September meeting, we learned about the FoxG1 Syndrome from which Grace, Emily Duggan's daughter suffers. Darlene Laferriere led a very informative session about the symptoms, and expectations of persons suffering from this malady. In October, Shirley Myre, with help from Roxanne Chartrand made us aware of God's wonders in autumn. We become so despondent about winter coming, that we overlook God's splendor that this season provides. In November, we heard stories about the War Years from Don Cylsdale. It was a very informative afternoon. Our Christmas meeting will be at noon at Cecil's. More to follow.

As we move into the Christmas Season, let us not forget to include the greatest gift of all in our celebrations - Jesus.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Biondi, President.

... from the Prayer Shawl Group



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been enhanced by a display table. On it you will find information about Prayer Shawls. This table will be moved around the Church, in an attempt to make it visible to all. As previously mentioned, these shawls are readily available - just check with Rev. Ted or Wanda in the office.

Also on the table are 'Prayer Pockets'. They are a knitted pocket with a cross knitted into the front. Inside is a simple blessing, or you can add a more appropriate prayer for the recipient. It can be carried in a pocket as a constant reminder of God's love.

At the last Prayer Shawl Blessing, 16 were blessed, and added to our collection. With Christmas coming, it might be just the thing to give to someone who is ill, or bereaved, or needs to know that they are loved. When you give a shawl to someone, share a prayer with them to help them feel that they are special.

This message is written with many blessings to all who share their special knitting, and crocheting talents with others.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Biondi, Leader.



Trinity Families is hosting a very special session of "Messy Church" on Saturday, Dec. 1st. We Wish You a Messy Christmas! We'll explore and reflect on the messiness of the First Christmas through games and crafts, and enjoy a meal together. This is a free event and is open to **everyone**. It will run from 3:30-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. For more information contact Carling Lutecki (705) 493-0976.

Creative Space

I-DYG is hosting a YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT Drop-in Craft Event
Sunday December 2nd – at St. Andrew's United Church 2 – 4 pm

Come join us as we tap into our creative side. We will work on a craft project, enjoy some conversation and treat ourselves to hot chocolate and snacks!

White Gift Sunday

White Gift Sunday began in the early 1900's when the wife of a Methodist Minister came up with the idea of wrapping gifts in white in order to shift the focus away from the value of the gift so that no one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone could share in the joy of giving to others.

You are invited to bring gifts, money and non-perishable food items on Sunday December 9th for Trinity's special White Gift Service. These gifts will be brought forward during worship and will be donated to Trinity's Food Shelf Ministries or Trinity's Christmas Gift Bag Project. Thank you for reaching out and sharing God's love with others this Christmas season!

HOLY GROUNDS YOUTH EVENT

All youth in Grade 7 and up are invited to take a deeper look at the Christmas season.

We will unpack the Christmas stories through crafts, cooking and discussion.

Sunday, Dec. 9th, Dec. 16th and Dec. 23rd in the fireside room from 12 to 1:30 pm.

Bring a lunch – Fancy coffee (or hot chocolate) and dessert will be provided.

"I'll Be Home For Christmas": A Heartwarming Evening of Wartime Story and Song!

As we wrap up this 100th anniversary of the World War One Armistice, Trinity United Church reflects on both the warmth and the tumult of Christmas during wartime. Pause with us to witness the hope that arises even in the cold theatre of human conflict. Benefits entirely for North Bay's "Gathering Place" soup kitchen.

On December 11th at 6:30pm we gather with a sing-a-long of Christmas favourites, followed by story and music at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students, children under 12 are free.

Refreshments will be served.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant
Sunday December 16th at 10:30 am
The Nativity - as told by the Animals
Directed by Darlene Laferriere

*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!*

Rehearsals begin Sunday November 18th during Sunday School.
All friends are welcome to participate!

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.

Trinity Families Winter Retreat

Saturday February 16th 1 pm - Monday February 18th 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: \$80 Adults and \$50 per child (12 and under).

Spirit Point is located on the northwest corner of Algonquin Park. www.spiritpoint.ca

Registration deadline February 3, 2019.

First come, first served - last year was sold out!

For more information and to register please contact

Marcel MacDonald at glen_slim@hotmail.com or Lisa Blais at blais.trinity@gmail.com

Trinity's Christmas Gift Bag Outreach

Each year Trinity's youth group collects items for the Christmas Bag Outreach Project. We provide 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: mitts, socks, slippers, treats (regular and diabetic ones), playing cards, games, toiletries (**no hotel soaps please**), colouring and activity books, journals, crafts, word search and other puzzle books, etc. Christmas gift bags or money to purchase gifts are also appreciated.

Thank-you for supporting this important outreach project!



CHRISTMAS EVE

Come early for a good seat at our family service, 7pm on Monday December 24th. That Service will include the scripture story and lively singing of many Christmas favourites. After the busy 7 p.m. family service, there will be a brief centering service of communion and prayers at about 8:15pm.



SOUP TASTING NIGHT

Join us in the Trinity Fellowship Hall on Friday January 11th 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 18th at 7pm, Trinity's fellowship hall is transformed into *North Bay's biggest 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.

Every year about this time, pill bottles are distributed as containers for your special Advent Offering of looneys, toonies, or even (halleluia!!) cheques or folding money. In preparation for this year's offering any clean, unlabeled, empty pill bottles returned to the church would be much appreciated.



Snowshoe Sunday

It's not too early to be thinking about snow.
Come snowshoeing on Sunday February 3rd 2019. For the past few years after church we have gone snowshoeing at various locations near the city.
This year we plan to snowshoe at Camp Caritou in Bonfield.
So save the date and come play outside in the snow. Don't own snowshoes? Maybe put it on your Christmas wish list or borrow a pair from a friend.
There will be a sign up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall in mid January.

Red Hot Friday Night: Chili Cook-off

Friday March 22nd , 5 – 7:30 pm

All Welcome! Come 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



A Foot Stomping Musical Of The Greatest Story Ever Retold

COTTON PATCH GOSPEL

Directed by Darlene Laferriere
Music & Lyrics By Harry Chapin
Book By Tom Key & Russell Treyz

7:00PM, Friday January 11th
7:00PM, Saturday January 12th
1:30PM, Sunday January 13th

Trinity United Church
(Ferguson at McIntyre) North Bay

Tickets: adults \$15 | students & children \$10
Tickets available at the door and at Trinity United Church
To reserve tickets, please call 705-477-4982

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FOR YOUR FRIDGE—DATES AT A GLANCE

- Sun Dec 2nd- Advent Communion service 10:30am
- Sun Dec 9th- White Gift Sunday
- Tues Dec 11th- “I’ll Be Home for Christmas: A Heartwarming Evening of Wartime Story and Song” (Sing-a-long begins at 6:30pm!)
- Sun Dec 16th- 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Pageant
followed by 1:30pm afternoon Joy Band Concert
- Fri Dec 21st- Our “Longest Night” evening service at 7pm
- Sun Dec 23rd- 10:30am Morning service features our Choir Cantata
- Mon Dec 24th- Christmas Eve Family Service, 7pm. Communion, 8:15pm
- Fri Jan 11th- Trinity Soup Tasting Night hosted by Trinity AOTS!
- Fri Jan 11th-Sun Jan 13th- Mustard Seed presents “Cotton Patch Gospel”
- Sun Jan 13th- Baptism Sunday (contact the office ASAP with your interest) 10:30am.
- Fri Jan 18th- The Trinity Coffeehouse—sign up your act!
- Sun Jan 20th- 2pm “Christian Unity Service”
- Sun Jan 27th- Robbie Burns Sunday
- Sun Feb 3rd- Trinity Family Snowshoe afternoon
- Sun Feb 10th- Thinking Day: celebrate Guides and Scouts during our morning worship
- Tues Feb 13th- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Feb 15-17- the Trinity Families Retreat at "Spirit Point"
- Sun Feb 24th- Trinity's afternoon Annual General Meeting
- Sat Mar 2nd- Camp Caritou Pasta Supper
- Sun Mar 10th- Communion service, beginning the season of Lent
- School March Break: Mar 11th through 15th
- Fri Mar 22nd- “Red Hot Chili Cook-Off” Dinner
- Sun Apr 14th- Palm Sunday
- Thur Apr 18th- Maundy Thursday Youth Vigil
- Fri Apr 19th- Good Friday AOTS Breakfast at Trinity before Good Friday service
Good Friday service, Emmanuel United Church, 10:30 a.m.
- Sun Apr 21st- Easter Sunday: Sunrise and Communion services