

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

A COVID-19 Pandemic Update (May)

Welcome to the Trinity North Bay Newsletter, COVID-19 edition.

I hope everyone is well and staying safe at home during this time. When the pandemic started and your Board made the early decision to suspend services in our sanctuary, it was not anticipated that the event would last too long. We have since learned that to control the spread of the virus, we must continue to physically isolate. Our collective efforts have been successful in flattening of the curve.

Our church and our ministry to the community has however not stopped. Right from the start, we ensured that critical functions such as the food bank and infant food shelf continued. Your generosity has ensured that we continue to meet our obligations and to re-created ourselves in new and innovative ways.

A few years ago, Rev. Ted shared, that every 500 years the church undergoes an evolution. He felt that we were reaching that time. I think we are there. Thanks to technology, we have been able to continue to have weekly services via the internet. For those without computers or internet access, these services have also been made available on DVD. Creating these worship services each week takes time and talent. To spread this time and labour commitment, we are seeking the assistance of members of the congregation who may be able to assist in assembling the various segments of the service. If you feel you can help in any way, please contact John Roberts at jrobertsnb@gmail.com or 705.474.2714. Many hands make light work. (who knows, you may find a hidden talent).

Moving to this format of service delivery has allowed us to join together with other congregations, namely St Andrew's. Worshipping together and sharing resources makes good sense. An added bonus has been that participation in the church has increased! We are now joined virtually with friends in other cities, other provinces and even other countries. What a cause for celebration to see this new opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As I write this, word has been shared that while restrictions imposed to control the pandemic are gradually being lifted, the State of Emergency remains for the time being. I want to share with you that your Board has struck a sub-committee that will begin to put together a plan for returning to worship in the building. While we do not know the details of what will be permitted, we can put together some thoughts that can be tweaked later on. We do know one thing - how we worship in the future will be different than how we worshipped in the past! Once we have a plan and we know that it is aligned with provincial protocols, we will share it with you.

In the interim, please take care of yourself.

Bob Cook, Chairperson, TUC

From Rev. Ted's (Home) Desk: "After the Cocoon"

The American Economist Paul Romer once quipped that, "*a crisis is a terrible thing to waste.*" As we contemplate life-after-quarantine from our varied cocoons, we do well to keep that sentiment in mind. On the national level, there is talk of instituting a basic income, changing how we treat personal care workers, overhauling eldercare, and kick-starting a greener economy. All of these are powerful corporate ways of learning from this anxious season of pandemic.

At Trinity we have much to be proud of in our Covid-19 response. We are evolving in our on-line worship, and both the participation and the virtual attendance have been impressive. We are caring for our church family - supporting and encouraging one another with calls, cooperation, and creativity. We are reaching out more widely - nurturing people near and far through our intergenerational worship with St. Andrews, through our individual neighbourhood engagement, through our continuing food shelf outreach.

The next challenge will be allowing this crisis to further shape and change us, *for the better*. I encourage you to pray about how we want to be, afterwards. The lock-down affords us time and space to weigh our priorities, to revisit our most cherished values, and to count our blessings. Pray and converse about those changes, and share your insights with members of the Trinity Board.

A customary image of this Easter season is the butterfly. But I invite you to consider what comes *before*: The caterpillar cocoons for a season before its transformation. In that cocoon, the caterpillar disintegrates and dies to what it was. It is a fragile and a messy state of being, out of which transformation occurs. We're living in a cocoon-time right now. *To what transformations are we being called?*

See you on Sunday,



Hello Trinity Friends,

As we stay safe at home during this pandemic, we continue look for ways to stay connected and to maintain the ministry of the church in new ways. Although we are not able to be in the church building on a regular basis, our phone line and emails are checked daily and our food bank and Infant Food Bank remain open and available to those who need it. We look forward to the time when we can return to worship in our Church home but, until that time, here are a number of ways that you can connect with us:

- join us online for worship Sunday mornings at 10:30 on Trinity North Bay's Youtube channel (or any other time that is convenient);
- consider participating in the online worship service by offering to lead a prayer or read scripture;
- check out the COVID-19 Link on the website for a number of resources - Mental Health support, Children and Family Resources as well as Faith and Spirituality resources;
- if you are part of a church group and would like to set up a Zoom meeting, get in touch with us to get that set up. It is easy to do!
- the Sunday School and Youth Group continue to meet "virtually" - ask to be added to the email list to be kept in the loop for future events.

For those of you who are not "on line":

- if you have access to a DVD player, contact us to arrange a DVD copy of the worship service;
- you can dial in to "Dial for Hope" for an inspirational message from a Trinity friend;
- write a letter or a card to a Sunday School child **OR** if you are a Sunday school child, write a letter, create an art piece to share with a senior member of our congregation; and
- if you would like a phone call from any of the staff or Pastoral Care team, leave a message on the church answering machine (705.474.3310) and someone will return your call.

There are blessings and challenges that we will continue to face but it is wonderful to see the creative ways that people are continuing to stay connected with each other. Thank you to those of you who have shared words of encouragement and for your willingness to be part of our online worship services. I continue to say this on a daily basis: *We are not alone... thanks be to God!* ~ Lisa Blais

... from the Finance Committee

In our last newsletter we confirmed that with the church being closed due to the Pandemic, generating income by traditional methods is a big challenge. We encouraged people to donate through alternative means as detailed in various church communiqués. The folks of our church community have responded in a big way! THANK YOU! Your generous donations resulted in our April income exceeding expenses by approximately \$6,000, thereby reducing our year-to-date deficit by 21% to \$22,000.

Donations to the Roof Restoration Fund also continued in April, bringing our to-date total for this fund to \$129,000, 70% of the project cost. What a great job of fundraising and donating you folks have done!!

While April has been a very positive month financially, we recognize that upcoming months will place serious strain on our finances until regular church gatherings can resume. While we have a healthy bank balance of over \$60,000, monthly expenses to maintain the church and employ our great staff during these times average around \$25,000 per month and we still have \$64,000 in Roof Restoration Loans to pay back, with the first major payment due in August.

Our Treasurer Michelina Beam and Administrator Wanda Gleason have submitted applications for two financial assistance programs offered by the Federal Government to help businesses and not-for-profit organizations during the Pandemic. Both programs offer wage subsidies, with the first one providing a 10% subsidy with no conditions while the second one offers a temporary subsidy of 75% of eligible salary with specific revenue conditions. We had hoped to take advantage of another program offering interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 but have learned recently that churches are not eligible.

During this challenging time, Trinity continues to serve the wider community, nurture spirituality in people of all ages and be an open, welcoming and inclusive community of faith. We appreciate your contributions towards this important work

Respectfully submitted by John Hafidson

"Dial for Hope" Telephone Ministry

Into its second month, Trinity's "**Dial for Hope**" ministry receives regular calls from people in and beyond the Trinity Church family. Trinity member Karen Johnson suggested this temporary ministry of encouragement, and Minister Emerita, Reverend Kathy has assembled a roster of volunteer leaders. On any given day, you might hear a brief hopeful message from one of our ministers (Kathy, Ted or Lisa) or from caring Trinity members including John Sheridan, Karen Brophey, Rob Farris, Rod Carley, or Reverend Richard Smith.

Every couple of days you will be able to hear a new encouraging message from a different Trinity leader - often a poem or story, a prayer or meditation. Just call this local toll-free phone number: **(249) 506-0377**. Please share the "Dial for Hope" number with any friends who might crave a hopeful word!