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A COVID-19 Pandemic Update (June)

Welcome to Summer 2020

We are inching our way through what has been a most challenging spring. While COVID-19 has restricted how we worship on Sunday, it did not stop us! Our digital team of John Roberts, Lisa Blais, Eve Harrison and Sarah Cook have ensured that each week we have been able to hear the Good News. We have managed to find new ways to expand our ministry and church into areas we never thought possible. Beyond our Sunday worship, the critical work of feeding the hungry has never slowed.

It is amazing how we, as a congregation, have turned a challenging situation into one with positive outcomes. Through partnerships with other area churches, we are getting to know each other just a little more. We have found new ways to connect with our children, embracing technology. Our pastoral team has continued to reach out to our shut-ins and now with the digital service, they can enjoy the same service we all see each week.

The Premier, on June 8, provided the approvals for places of worship to begin phased re-opening as early as June 14 with 30% occupancy. Rather than rushing into this, the Board remains committed to stay the course and re-open after the summer. We are confident that the cautious and conservative approach will ensure that our worship services, when they resume, are safe for everyone, particularly our most vulnerable.

Great progress has already been made in laying the groundwork for re-opening. I shared last month that we anticipated that services will be a mix of live and recorded components. Prior to our resumption of services in our building, I will be sharing with you the guidelines that have been developed to help us remain safe when we are together.

So, as we move into summer, please continue to enjoy the on-line services, in July being hosted by St. Andrew's.

Have a great summer

Bob Cook, Chair

From Rev. Ted's (Home) Desk: "On The Far Side of COVID"

In our last "COVID-era" newsletter I suggested that we need to allow the Pandemic and the lockdown to shape and change us, *for the better*. Here (in light of recent provincial announcements) I want to muse about when we finally gather again.

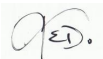
The biblical Exodus story provides our road-map. There, we find examples of similar traumas overcome, with an accompanying transformation and celebration. Remember that the Passover is celebrated in the wake of deadly plagues and dehumanizing violence. On the far side of COVID, we too will celebrate God's faithfulness, and our own. We will recognize those many who have served our congregations and our community with kindness, skill, cooperation, and passion. We will lift them up in prayer, celebrating their integrity and their sacrifice.

...But we will not do so prematurely. At least, not in person.

COVID-19 is with us until we have a vaccine or a cure. Some of us are more vulnerable to its ravages than others, and like "the Good Shepherd" whom we follow, churches are called to look out for the most vulnerable. Many of our members - who have already struggled to engage with new technologies - cannot be either endangered or left out. Caring deeply for one another even as we reach out to the world around us will continue to be our ministry. We will be measured, careful and deliberate about returning to our church building in due time. In August, we will prepare our church and our volunteers for the possibility of opening in September, or later.

Please be assured that Trinity's leadership will continue to be responsive, thorough, and prayerful. As we ease into a season of socially-distanced summer Sabbath, it is with an awareness of God's call to vigilantly care for one another, to love and serve abundantly, and to treasure and stoke the joys of our continuing fellowship.

See you on Sunday,



P.S. Because Trinity will be closed for the month of July, Trinity members are encouraged to worship with the folks of Saint Andrew's United Church. Let's regularly link to that worship via their website at www.standrews-northbay.ca In August, Trinity's weekly worship will continue where we left off, including leadership from both Saint Andrew's and Emmanuel United Churches!

Finance & Stewardship

For the month of May, income of approximately \$44,000 exceeded expenses by about \$9,000, reducing our year-to-date deficit by 40% from the previous month to about \$13,000. THANK YOU to all you folks who donated so generously during the month.

Income for the month of May was impacted in a positive way by a payment of \$12,000 from the Federal Government Wage Subsidy program set up to help organizations experiencing substantial income decreases due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. A note of appreciation goes to Treasurer Michelina and Administrator Wanda for making this payment happen.

Donations to the Roof Restoration Fund totaled \$9,355 in May, bringing our to-date total to \$138,000, 76% of the project cost. What tremendous financial support you people have provided to this project!! Please stay tuned for new fundraising initiatives our amazing stewardship team is working on to help pay off our roof restoration debts.

Looking ahead to the next few months, we are thankful for a healthy bank balance but we recognize it will be a while until regular church gatherings can resume, that expenses continue even when the church is closed and we have major payments to make on our Roof Restoration Loans. Additional funds from the Wage Subsidy program will be applied for and will certainly help if we are successful.

During this challenging time, Trinity continues to carry out its mission, often using new methods that challenge but enable us to learn, grow and become stronger. Your contributions towards this work are much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by John Hafidson

Christian Education & Outreach

Food Shelf

The numbers have been lower than usual however we believe many are getting help from the Gathering Place and other outlets. We are receiving great comments on being open, and feel that this is a service that is appreciated and needed and so we will continue. A thank you to: Lisa Blais, Hannah McCallum and Joe Drinkwalter, who are putting in countless hours packaging, handing out and being there every Monday; to Cindy Brownlee, John Hafidson, and Sue Miller who are doing the shopping; to Jean Rideout who is organizing the shopping list; to Doris-Rae Brownlee who is keeping the finances; and to Sharen Liddel who is making masks for our Monday helpers and our clients.

As we were not able to celebrate Lent in person at the church this year, and that is one of our major fundraisers for the Food Shelf, if you would like to donate to the Food Shelf you can drop off a cheque to the McIntyre St. mail box at the church, mail in a cheque or make an e-transfer to trinityuc.treasurer@gmail.com

Sunday School

Lisa has been keeping the children busy and contributing to our on-line service each week. I know you have a big smile when you see Lisa's segment with the children. It is a lot of work so thank you to the parents, the children and Lisa who puts this together every week.

Trinity Families

The committee determined to cancel the camping this year. Carling Lutecki is working to find new and different ideas to share with Trinity Families.

Youth Group

Sandra Brownlee and Lisa Blais have done exceptional work in keeping our Youth engaged. Through Zoom meetings and House Party the youth have been connecting with each other. There is more planned and information will be sent out.

Vacation Bible Camp

The committee has decided to cancel for this year. Marcel McDonald and Lisa are busy planning for 2021 with some wonderful ideas. Although we will not be holding a VBC this year, stay tuned for a couple special surprises and activities coming your way in August!

Mustard Seed

The show has been postponed and looking at Spring 2021. There will be special presentation by some of the Mustard Seed Kids on Sunday June 14th during the online worship service. An online reunion took place with participants throughout the last 12 years. Look for a special supplementary segment to be posted on YouTube soon – as well as a song or two in upcoming worship services (including June 14th.)

Spirit Point

We have a standing booking for Family Day weekend in 2021 and will be making that decision much later on in the year.

Women's Retreat

We still have a booking at Camp Caritou for the last weekend of September and have not cancelled as of yet. The decision will happen in August.

*Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Stay safe, healthy and happy! Sue Miller



“On a Musical Note” - Hello Trinity Friends:

This has been a very unique spring for all of us! We have become so aware of terms like “social distancing” and COVID-19, Zoom meetings, “virtual church”, “virtual choir” and the list goes on.

It is hard to believe that 3 months have passed since Trinity began on-line services and our “virtual choir” was formed. What an experience it has been! We now have had over twenty choir voices, piano, organ, flute, viola, guitar, accordion, harmonica etc., involved musically in our services!

Each week, the verbs choosing, recording, mixing, editing, and sharing have come into play! Hymns, anthems, solos, and duets become the musical offerings to God’s glory as part of our weekly on-line worship!

I would like to thank all of our regular Trinity choir members, plus John Henderson and Caleb Smith for their weekly singing. Special thanks to Laura Farris-Einarson and the Junior Choir, and to Laura for frequently accompanying choir selections on her flute.

Our greatest thanks goes to John Roberts, who became a master at taking our many voices, and mixing the parts to become four-part harmony! John has spent countless hours leading all of us to do our best (and, reminding us of deadlines). We wish John and Barb our best on a well-deserved holiday! John has completed most of the recording/mixing up to September 6th!

Our Trinity virtual choir is hoping to lead a “virtual hymn-sing” in the early fall. We will try to honour as many wishes as possible, possibly over several weeks. If you have a request, please contact me at:

bettyfarris@hotmail.com or, 705-493-3143.

For those interested in the “technology” here is a brief outline of the process of producing *each* musical selection which you hear and see in our services.

- ◆ Rob and I distribute music to our musicians.
- ◆ I play a choir master copy of a hymn or anthem on the organ or piano. That copy becomes the recording background for the sopranos, and the instrumental accompaniment part for the altos, tenors, and basses. For unison hymns, we all use this part.
- ◆ For hymns and anthems with harmony, I use this copy, and with Rob’s help, record separate harmony parts on the piano - alto, tenor and bass. The parts are e-mailed back to John.
- ◆ John mixes each part with the soprano/accompaniment, but makes the harmony part louder. The singers hear their part very well, but the background lets them know how the overall piece sounds.
- ◆ Each singer gets their part via e-mail, and listens to it through ear-phones.
- ◆ They sing along with it, and record their voice on a separate device, such as a smart-phone or tablet.
- ◆ Each person e-mails their sound file to John.
- ◆ John takes the sound files, and each becomes a sound track for the final song.
- ◆ When we have flute, Laura plays her part, while listening to the original recording.
- ◆ Sometimes I’ll add a fancier accompaniment to the vocalists, and John removes the original recording from the mix.
- ◆ John sends me a “draft copy” of the final recording, and we sometimes “tweek” the recording to improve the final sound.

In a sense, each of us is working in our own separate recording studio. John is the master technician (in his recording studio) who takes our individual “tracks” and mixes them to make us sound good! It has been a steep learning curve for us all. John has been incredibly patient with all of us, as we work through the technology! Thank you, John!

We’re not sure at this time, what the fall will bring musically. We do, however, look forward to sharing music with you in some way.

Besides choir numbers, we have solos and duets lined up for August 9 through September 6. We thank each of these people for their special efforts to contribute to each worship service.

As our world begins to open up, we wish each of you a relaxing and sunshine-filled summer.

Sincerely, Betty Farris and our Trinity Choir



Dial for Hope Ministry

It has been a privilege to help out with the Dial for Hope Ministry. We are now beginning our eighth week, with the schedule already planned into July. We began this ministry (at Karen Johnson's suggestion) as a way of reaching out and sharing the good news of faith and hope, and reminding people of God's presence and goodness even in this time of COVID-19. And we intend to continue it for the near future.

We are blessed to have a wonderful group of volunteers to bring you a 'Minute for Hope'. When I contact them to update the schedule their response is always so positive, and they are eager to continue to share their faith and offer their gifts in this way! In addition to our 'ministers' at Trinity, Rev. Ted, Lisa and myself, we have a number of other Trinity members who share their faith with you - Rob Farris, Karen Brophrey, John Sheridan, Rod Carley, and Rev. Richard Smith. In July, while Trinity is on holiday, we will still continue this ministry, and Sandra Rozicki will join us during the holiday time. What a gift to Trinity all these volunteers are! We are truly grateful!

It is easy to get the 'Minute for Hope'. All you have to do is dial the toll free number 249-506-0377, and wait for the delightful surprise of hearing who is on the phone that day!

We continue to have regular callers from within Trinity and beyond and often they leave wonderful greetings. To date, the number has received well over 200 calls.

This ministry is available to anyone, so please do not hesitate to share the number with family and friends. Everyone needs a little 'hope', especially in these strange days.

Yours in Christ

(Rev.) Kathleen McCallum

Pastoral Care & Visiting

Although during the past several months our regular activities of pastoral care and visiting have been suspended due to the need for protective physical distancing, members of the Pastoral Care and Visiting Committee have been reaching out to people of the Trinity family with caring telephone calls and cards of support to help reduce the isolation. Although extra attention has been given to seniors who live alone, calls continue to be made to others as well, keeping in touch and letting folks know that they are not forgotten.

We also ask if there are any practical needs that can be met by someone on or connected to the ministry team. Sometimes people receive more than one caring call from Trinity, but to our knowledge, no one has complained that they are receiving too many calls and the contact is always appreciated.

One silver lining of this lack of physical contact, has been, in some cases, opportunities to take the time to listen to life stories with people who we might see at church in passing, but have not spent the time to speak at length with them. It has been definitely fascinating to hear about their lives.

In addition, several people have been transporting baked goods and decorated pillows and shawls, all as expressions of comfort and well wishes. Of course, we all look forward to the day when face to face, in person contact may happen again.

If you know of someone who has been missed in our circle of contacts, phone the church office and leave a message - the concern will be passed on to the committee.

Rev. Richard Smith, Chairperson



Rev. Ted's 'Secret' Book Club

**To our book-loving friends: Now you can grow spiritually, socialize virtually,
AND contribute to Trinity's Roof Fund.**

**Rev. Ted's 'secret' book inspired him to enter the ministry and look at suffering in a new way.
It's short. It's popular. And you can get it for free with a suggested \$100 minimum
donation to the Trinity Roof Fund.**

**Want more? We'll ship the book right to your door and invite you to a
virtual book club party, hosted by Rev. Ted himself.**

Tax receipts will be available for your donation amount over \$20.

**Ready to donate? Stuff an envelope with cash or a cheque, clearly marked
Rev. Ted's Secret Book Club, and mail it or drop it off at the church. Or you can send an
email transfer to trinityuc.treasurer@gmail.com with a message that says
Rev Ted's Secret Book Club and the password 'inspire'.**

**Please donate by June 20th so you can receive your book in July. You'll have a month to lounge
outside, lazily reading it. Then we'll contact you in early August so you can pick a date for the party.**

Join the club - donate today!