

Trinity United Church 2020 Annual Report



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
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STAFF 2019

Minister Rev. Dr. Ted Harrison
 Designated Lay Minister Lisa Blais
 Minister Emerita Rev. Kathy McCallum
 Minister of Music Betty Farris
 Office Administrator Wanda Gleason
 Asst. Office Administrator... Jean Mitchell
 Custodian Ryan Rozicki
 Night Reception Maurice Laporte
 Treasurer Michelina Beam

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Minister's Message: "2020: A Year for Good News"

As we look back on the year 2020, here's something to keep in mind: humans are hard-wired to pay particular attention to bad news. This is called our "*negativity bias*." It makes sense that throughout human history, such a bias makes us more vigilant towards potential threats to our lives, families, and communities.

Not only do humans pay more attention to negative information, but we actually dedicate more brain power to processing it - and our behaviours are often more motivated by bad news than by good news. It's true, isn't it? We usually give more thought, time, and energy to what goes wrong, than to what goes right.

If you follow any news programming, you already know this is true. And of course such negativity can actually skew our perception of reality! One small example: compulsive media coverage might lead us to believe that violent crime is an ever-present and worsening danger, *when statistically we know that violent crime has been diminishing world-wide for decades*.

So: in case you hadn't noticed - *2020 was a banner year for bad news*. In such circumstances, our "negativity bias" feeds an ever-worsening cycle of anxiety, grief, paranoia and depression. Instead of helping us survive, our "negativity bias" drags us down. That vigilant survival-instinct has us seeing bad news in every direction- even while we've witnessed sustained and remarkable good news in 2020: inspirational levels of sacrifice, compassion, generosity, cooperation, innovation, and human connection!

It is a time to reverse course. Can you allow the oppression and the ubiquity of bad news in 2020 to remind you of our calling as people of Good News? *Because, remember: "Gospel" literally means "Good News."* Although we shouldn't ignore any threats to our well-being, don't we owe it to ourselves to give more attention to the kind of Good News that gives life its purpose, direction, and value?

The 2020 Annual Reports in the pages ahead are written in early 2021, as we continue to wrestle back the bad news, and fight to nurture Good News. We can counter our "negativity bias" by directing more conscious attention toward the positive events and feelings we experience - savouring the good sensations and the hopeful thoughts they inspire, thereby energizing one another for the work, the joy, and the blessed fulfillment of Good News!

God bless us all as we love and inspire one another into the better world that awaits.

Yours in faith,



from the Designated Lay Minister

The church is more than a building. We've all heard that statement before, but perhaps it has never been more true than this past year! Your creativity, your compassion, your generosity and your perseverance in the midst of a pandemic has inspired and sustained me. You have continued to *be* the church despite not being able to *be in* the church!

Like so many other things this year, my job took a dramatic shift. I have a few more tools in my toolbox, learned a few skills that I never thought I would need to learn, I've become much more familiar with zoom than I may have liked to, but the heart and soul of my work has not changed. Despite the fact that a good portion of my job relies on connecting people to activities and groups that could not happen this year, if anything, the pandemic has strengthened our connection to each other as a church family.

I want to share my deep gratitude for your willingness to share your stories, celebrations, talents and time in our new online worship format. I have heard from many of our church members - near and far - who comment on how wonderful it is to see so many members of the Trinity community in our worship services.

Throughout this report, you will read more about the activities and contributions of the various groups and committees of the church and stories of creative fundraisers, zoom sessions, reunions and virtual meetings. The birth of our amazing virtual choir and the incredible work of our tech crew, under the leadership of John Roberts. The work of the new Covid Risk Management Committee and the Board in keeping our church family safe. The creativity of our Sunday School children in presenting a virtual Christmas pageant. The caring work of the Pastoral Care team who made extraordinary efforts to reach out to our church members living alone or in care. There are so many other examples of our church folk in action that I have not mentioned here.

Thank you for your generosity, your resilience, your creativity and your care. Thank you for being part of our Church family.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

Lisa Blais, DLM

Faith Formation and Outreach Minister

from the Minister of Music

The Trinity Senior Choir has enjoyed providing music on a regular basis for weekly worship services during 2020. However, “Regular basis” took on new meaning during 2020, due to the Covid-19 lock-downs and new protocols during the year. Regular services ended on March 8. Weekly virtual services on YouTube began on March 29, with live-streaming beginning on September 20. Live Sunday worship resumed with limited attendance allowed, and some live music. Each worship was also live-streamed and put on You-Tube. Late in December, with new government protocols, we returned to live-stream and YouTube.

In late March, several members at first, later growing to 20 became the Trinity Virtual Choir! At times, we were assisted by John Henderson, Emmanuel United Church, Caleb Smith, Laura Farris-Einarson on flute, and Chris Clarke on percussion. Betty, our regular accompanist, also got to sing each week as a virtual soprano!

Throughout the year, the YouTube virtual services and our virtual choir were made possible by Sound and Video Technician extraordinaire, John Roberts! John took all our sound files and videos, mixed them, and added words. Then, they were inserted into the appropriate part of the service. In November, Lisa Blais took over the audio mixing each week and continued the excellent work to make us sound good!

So that we can preserve this information for the records of our church, I am including a listing of the process needed to produce **each** virtual music selection.

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 (Lisa, from November, on). John or Lisa 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 or Lisa. John or Lisa take the sound files, and combine them into a final master sound track for the final song. (When we have flute Laura plays her part, while listening to the original recording. Chris Clarke uses the same process for percussion.) Usually, I’ll add a fancier accompaniment to the vocalists, and it gets added to the recording from the mix. John or Lisa sends me a “draft copy” of the final recording, and we sometimes “tweak” the recording to improve the final sound.

In a sense, each of us is working in our own separate recording studio. John (or Lisa) is the master technician (in their 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 and Lisa have been incredibly patient with all of us, as we work through the technology! Thank you, John and Lisa!

As can be appreciated this is the process for **one** virtual music selection. With over 100 musical selections (hymns or anthems) involving 1000’s of music files overall, it has been a monumental effort by our technical team. Thank you to all our “virtual musicians” for their faithful sharing of talent each week.

A more detailed account of all the technology in producing virtual, live-stream and “hybrid” services is contained in John Roberts’ excellent and thorough report elsewhere in this Trinity Annual Report.

During the fall, November and December especially, we were able to have some live music during the time when “in-person” attendance was allowed. Thank you to choir members from both the regular and virtual choir for their leadership during those services.

This was made possible through the construction of plexiglass “music pods”. Through the generous financial contributions of Trinity AOTS and a Trinity family, Rob Farris and Chris Clarke designed and built the pods. They adhered to the guidelines of the North Bay-Parry Sound Health Unit to ensure proper social distancing of up to 3 musicians.

The Senior Choir roster now numbers 34! We look forward to the time when we can resume Thursday practices and Sunday morning services! But, until then, we will continue to serve Trinity “virtually”.

It was a privilege to serve Trinity with musical selections (January - March “live” services, and from March - December, “virtual” and “live”) each week, dedicated to the glory of God!

The Senior Choir thanks the congregation for their continued support and we look forward to sharing our faith through music with you in the coming year, “virtually”, or “live”.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Farris, Minister of Music -2-

from the Chairperson of the Board

At the service where I was officially installed as your Board Chair, I jokingly commented to the outgoing Chair, John Roberts, that I felt things should be smooth sailing for me as he had just navigated us through the roof repair. Little then did we realize that just around the corner loomed a global pandemic.

COVID-19 has dramatically changed our world. Where once we laughed at people who emulated Lady McBeth obsessively washing her hands, we thought it strange to see people wearing masks, and thought it strange when someone we just met did not accept our offer to shake hands, these things are now normal and in fact demonstrate good judgement. While the pandemic has in large part closed or at a minimum held our doors ajar, our church evolved and is now embracing a new digital outreach. I have seen the statistics that show that we are now sharing the Good News beyond our city and now include friends from afar. Our church is stronger than ever!

When the first closure was announced one year ago, we all anticipated a triumphant return on Easter Sunday. Well, who knows, maybe that will occur in 2022? Whenever it occurs, we will rejoice.

The pandemic has created some unique challenges. I think I must be the first Board Chair in the history of Trinity who has never chaired an in-person meeting. Monthly and oftentimes more than that, the Board has met over Zoom, much like we will be doing at our annual meeting. Yet our mission to the community has necessitated that we not close entirely. During the entire pandemic, we have continued to offer critical services to those in need through the operation of the Food Shelf. Closing was never an option.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the ceiling collapse in the Fire Side Room in July of last year. We all believed the roof challenges were enough! So, while continuing to fund raise for the roof repair, we had to face new financial challenges with finding money for repairing the ceiling in areas not covered by insurance. Somehow, our congregation has pulled through and we are well on our way to paying for this work. I am sure you will be pleased with the new look when you are able to come back to church.

While I would like to say thanks to so many dedicated people that make our church run, special acknowledgement goes out to our Ministerial Team of Rev. Ted, Lisa and Betty who have made worship special. None of the digital wizardry would have happened without John Roberts and his crew. The Board and its committees have worked so hard to ensure that our Ministry continues both on-line and in person (when permitted). It truly has been a pleasure to lead such a talented group of individuals. Thanks to Ryan who has ensured that our building remains clean and sanitized. I think I need to say a special word to Darlene Laferriere who has offered us so many non-events and kept our fundraising efforts, fun. How wonderful they all have been!

At the end of this ACM, I pass along the Chair role to Cindy Brownlee. I know she will do a wonderful job. I hope that my wish for quiet year as Chair works better for her than it did for me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Cook, Chair

Canadian Shield Regional Council (CSRC)

It has been 2 years since the United Church adopted a new governance structure. It has been a learning process that faced an unexpected test in March 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Everyone had to adjust. The Church became much more tech savvy and the new structure allowed for quicker decision making. Read more about the analysis of how the new structure is working in the January/February 2021 issue of *BROADVIEW* or check it out at *BROADVIEW.ORG*.

CSRC due to the size of the region was at an advantage when it came to adjusting to the Pandemic. We were already conducting most of our meetings by ZOOM.

The churches in our region also adapted to providing online worship. The decision was made to ask members of the executive, the commissions and the Resource Teams to extend their terms by one year and if willing and able to extend to the full three year term. Most members were able to make this commitment.

The annual meeting had been scheduled for June 5,6,7 in Sudbury. The pandemic changed these plans. A virtual annual meeting was held by ZOOM Nov 6,7. The meeting included worship, business, workshops, breakout groups and a meaningful Celebration of Ministry service. Since that time a guide to holding a virtual annual meeting has been made available to Communities of Faith in the region.

Staffing changes in the Regional Office occurred in 2020. Rev Lillian Roberts retired as Pastoral Relations Minister at the beginning of July, 2020. Rev Rob Smith assumed this role at the beginning of August. Rev Smith is based in Thunder Bay. Rev Will Kunder retired at the end of December. Rev Melody Duncanson-Hales moved from part-time to full-time work within the region. Her job description includes mission work and children and youth programming.

In North Bay there is a very active Mission Cluster. The Cluster is continuing the work of the Mission Committee of North Bay Presbytery. The cluster is focussing on Indigenous Relations, Environmental and Climate crisis, Antiracism work and Mental Health. It is hoped that as the church becomes more comfortable with the new structure more networks and clusters will develop and this will promote the feeling of community and relationship that was perhaps lost when presbyteries ceased to exist.

The first 2 years have been a time of learning, adapting and adjusting. The transition is not complete, it is not perfect yet. We must continue to move forward, meeting challenges as they occur and always evaluating how we are doing.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Brownlee,
Trinity's Regional Representative

2020
IN MEMORIAM

Lois Marilyn Habel	January 25
Betty Barbara Alcorn	February 9
Joseph Emile Belecque	February 10
Helen Gladys Belecque	June 22
Patricia Elda McLean	September 20
Annie Steele	September 22
Shirley Tayler	October 15
Verona Beryl Washburn	December 11
Doris-Rae Brownlee	December 23

BAPTISM

STATISTICS

Resident and non-resident membership as of December 31, 2019-	485		
Received by profession of faith	0		
Received by transfer	1		
Total received in 2020	0		
Removed by death	7		
Removed by session	0		
Removed by unknown residency	0		
Removed by transfer	0		
Total Removed in 2020	6		
Net	-6		
Resident and no-resident membership as of December 31, 2020 -	479		
Non-Resident	123	Resident	356

MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Baptisms	3	6	0	4	0
Marriages	5	1	3	6	1
Funerals	8	12	17	17	9

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2020

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity United Church held in the Sunday School Room following lunch on Sunday, February 23, 2020 with 60 persons in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson John Roberts at 12:15 pm. "Out of desire to live in right relationship with all of God's people, we recognize that we gather today on territory which has been cared for and blessed by the people of the Nipissing First Nations. Let us gather in spirit and truth."

WORSHIP: Rev Ted led us in the gathering worship, reading a paraphrase of Corinthians 13.

APPOINTMENT of RECORDING SECRETARY: Moved by Don Haslam/Barb Roberts that Janice Brownlee be appointed the Recording Secretary for this meeting. CARRIED

CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP/VOTING PRIVILEGES: Moved by Don Haslam / Diane Cook that Adherents of Trinity United Church who are present at this meeting be granted corresponding membership and the privilege to vote on temporal (non-spiritual/non worship) matters. CARRIED

IN MEMORIAL: Rev. Ted Harrison read the names of members and friends (page 4 of the Annual Report) whose funerals were conducted during 2019 and following a moment of silence he led us in prayer.

REVIEW of AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Moved by Maurice Laporte/Brad Stenning that the agenda be accepted as presented. CARRIED

MINUTES: Moved by Bill Brownlee /Cindy Brownlee that the minutes (page 5-6 of the Annual Report) of the February 24, 2019 annual congregational meeting be accepted as printed. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING: none

NEW BUSINESS: John Roberts reported on the roof repair project.

In the spring the plaster began cracking and some fell from the ceiling on the McIntyre Street side at the front corner of the Sanctuary. Inspection showed that the leaking was extensive and had been going on for a long time resulting in rotting of the roof structure. A structural engineer was hired and his report indicated that the entire roof structure of the Sanctuary would have to be replaced at a possible cost of \$1,000,000 or more and a time frame of at least one year. A second opinion was obtained and this structural engineer plus a contractor felt that the roof could be repaired rather than replaced. The board gave the okay to 'single-source' the work since we were out of time.

Scope of the work

- ◆ replaced 2 rotten beams
- ◆ reinforced a 3rd beam
- ◆ repaired a broken column
- ◆ replaced the complete roof system including ceiling joists, rafters, decking and ceiling in that front corner of the sanctuary
- ◆ replaced shingles with a roof membrane system on the lower roofs on both sides of the sanctuary
- ◆ removed the failed eaves-troughs on the McIntyre Street side
- ◆ repaired all the holes made during inspection of the roof
- ◆ replaced two of the 'capitals' at the top of the columns
- ◆ added connectors to better anchor the purlins to the timber frame trusses
- ◆ installed rafter ties way up at the top of the high roof

In February the Engineer and the City of North Bay have inspected and signed off on the work. The project is finished!!

Total cost of the project was \$182,000. By the end of the year, given your generosity and that of the community, we have raised \$112,000.

When it seemed that we could possibly be out of the church for at least a year we reached out to the other UC in North Bay for assistance in continuing our worship and outreach work. All the churches expressed interest in forming a cooperation committee to see if there were better ways of facing our joint futures. The 3 representatives from Trinity are John Roberts, Bob Cook and Cindy Brownlee. There has been an initial meeting and more are planned.

REPORTS for the YEAR 2019:

REVIEWER'S REPORT: Brad Stenning and Rick Shaver that they have reviewed the financial statements of Trinity United Church and those of the committees and groups within Trinity United Church and have found them to reflect the financial position of each of the groups.

The reviewers recognized the work done by Michelina Beam, treasurer of Trinity United Church. The reviewers have made some recommendations to each of the groups, committees about providing additional information in order to reduce the risk in maintaining their financial records

MOTION: Moved by Roman Rozicki /Rob Brownlee that the Reviewers' report be accepted as presented. CARRIED

APPOINTMENT of REVIEWERS for the Year 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Anna Wright /Rob Farris that the Reviewers for 2020 be Brad Stenning and Rick Shaver. CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORTS: John Haflidson reviewed the financial summary report for 2019. He expressed thanks to the congregation for their generous donations throughout the year. He expressed appreciation to the Finance/Stewardship Committee and acknowledged the work of Michelina Beam, treasurer in ensuring all our financial obligations are met. The floor was opened for comments and questions.

MOTION: Moved by Maurice Laporte/Joanne Bernier that the financial report for 2019 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

PROPOSED BUDGET for 2020: A summary of the proposed budget 2020 was presented.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET: Moved by Sue Miller/Ryan Rozicki that the proposed budget for 2020 be accepted. CARRIED

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: John Roberts (for Darlene Laferriere) presented the report.

The report is almost complete. There are a couple of items still to be finalized. Committee chairs have confirmed their portions of the report. All elders have declared their willingness to serve. The full report will be sent to the committee chairs for final confirmation. The new board list will be posted in the Narthex. Any changes in the report should be directed to Lisa Blais or John Roberts. It is never too late to join one of the standing committees. Just speak to John Roberts, Lisa Blais or the chair of the committee.

Elders added during 2019

Bob Cook - Vice Chair

Sandra Brownlee – CEO committee

Wanda Gleason – Worship committee

Lisa Blais – Communications committee

The following individuals have completed their terms and are retiring from the board: Susan White head, Jeff Mailloux, Eunice Laporte, Shirley Tayler, Colleen Chaput, Judi Rose.

The following individuals are nominated to the board for a term ending 2023: Stephen Davis (Finance committee), Pat Sadler (Pastoral Care/Visiting), Chris Ford (Worship).

Chair: Bob Cook

Vice-Chair: Cindy Brownlee

Past-Chair: John Roberts

The Chairperson opened the meeting for nominations from the floor. None were received.

MOTION: Noreen Brewer /Rae Brownlee moved that the nominations be declared closed. CARRIED

MOTION: Brad Stenning/ Don Haslam moved that the nominations of members (as presented) be approved as the Board of Trinity United Church for 2020. CARRIED

MOTION: Rob Farris /Brenda Holbein moved that letters of appreciation be sent by the recording secretary on behalf of the Board to its retiring members. CARRIED

The constitution gives the Board the power to fill any vacancies that may occur throughout the year and to present those names for approval at the next ACM.

MOTION: Gladys Banks-Bryer/Ryan Rozicki that the any 2 of the following Board Members and Staff be authorized to sign cheques on behalf of Trinity United church: Bob Cook (Chair), Cindy Brownlee (Vice-Chair), John Roberts (Past-Chair), Janice Brownlee (Recording Secretary), Wanda Gleason (Office Administrator). CARRIED

Bill Brownlee (in Darlene Laferriere's absence) presented the recommendation of the nominating committee that Jean Rideout and Don Rideout be named Honourary Elders.

MOTION: Moved by Noreen Brewer/Betty Cooney that to honour and acknowledge their long and continuous devoted service to Trinity, Jean Rideout and Don Rideout be elected as Honourary Elders. CARRIED

MOTION: Maurice Laporte/Don Haslam moved the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted and the Nominating Committee be dissolved with thanks. CARRIED

REMAINDER OF ANNUAL REPORT 2020: Appreciation was expressed to Ross Brewer for putting the report together.

MOTION: Moved by Maurice Laporte/Bill Brownlee that the TUC Annual Report 2019 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

THANK YOU TO STAFF AND OTHERS: John Roberts expressed thanks to the staff for their work and support to Trinity and its congregation. Thanks were also directed to everyone who plays a part in the life of Trinity.

INSTALLATION of CHAIRPERSON: John Roberts was thanked for his service as chairperson. Rev Ted installed Bob Cook as chairperson of the congregation and the Official Board for the ensuing year.

ADJOURNMENT: Having completed the business before us John Roberts asked for a motion of adjournment. Maurice Laporte moved the adjournment of the meeting at 1:25 pm. The meeting was closed with Rev. Ted offering a benediction.

.....
Recording Secretary Chairperson

Building & Grounds

While 2020 was a quiet year for our beloved Trinity, it did see an incident in the Fireside Room that has seen upgrades to the ceilings and lighting in the Ministers offices, the Nursery, the hallway and resulted in a whole new look for the FSR itself. The room is finished, but currently unfurnished. New custom bookcases are being added as they are completed, thank you Pat O’Kane, and the sub-committee in charge is attending to the selection of furniture.

By the time we are able to return to regular use of the church, the Fireside Room will be fully appointed and ready for meetings, lunches, game nights, guest speakers, Sunday School and all the rest we have put it to use for over the decades.

Ryan Rozicki, Chair

Communications

The primary purpose of the Communications committee is to keep the congregation apprised of the various activities and events of the church in a timely manner, This is achieved through the assembly and distribution of periodic reports throughout the year. These reports include information from Standing and Ad Hoc committees and Trinity groups. In the event that unscheduled emergent conditions arise, special notices may be prepared and disseminated as required.

Currently, the committee prepares three seasonal newsletters, one each for Spring, Fall and Advent. In addition, the Annual Report is prepared prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The committee includes John Roberts as Chair, Lisa Blais as staff resource person and two seconded members Ross and Noreen Brewer. Information is submitted to the committee via email or written notice and assembled into the appropriate format. This is forwarded to Lisa for dissemination to the congregation-at-large through the internet. Newsletters are printed and mailed to those who do not have internet access. The Newsletters need to be folded, placed in envelopes and address labels applied. To this end, a shortlist of volunteers is maintained who can be called upon to assist with these tasks. Time permitting, the Newsletters are held in the Narthex for one Sunday for distribution prior to mailing. The Annual Report is also distributed via the internet and paper copies are made available in the church for at least one Sunday prior to the Annual Congregational meeting.

The Office Administrator updates the information required for the weekly church advertisement in the Nugget and the committee retains the responsibility for posting upcoming events on the “wayside pulpit”.

Submitted by Ross Brewer

Christian Education & Outreach

The Christian Education and Outreach Committee at Trinity United Church is responsible for coordinating and overseeing programs for children, youth and adults and fundraising through special offerings such as Lent, Thanksgiving and White Gift Sunday.

We are fortunate with the volunteers who oversee the many outreach projects such as: Trinity Food Shelf, Infant Food Bank, Sunday School, Youth Group, Trinity Families, Spirit Point Family Day Weekend, Mustard Seed, Vacation Bible Camp, Rally Back Picnic and the Women's Retreat. These are supported by Lisa Blais, our Designated Lay Minister, and chaired by co-chairs Diane Cook and Sue Miller. The committee includes Sunday School co-superintendents Carling Luteki and Marcel MacDonald, Recording Secretary Caroline Harrison, Eric and Sandra Brownlee, Linsey Mutch, Amanda Silk, Anne Smith and Cindy Brownlee. Currently the Youth Representative position is vacant.

2020 was a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which started in March and many of our activities had to be reviewed and altered.

The Trinity Food Shelf continued to operate throughout the year with the assistance of Lisa Blais and the food shelf volunteers. COVID-19 protocols were established, and they continue to remain in place. There was an increased demand for our Food Shelf this year. Thank you to those who donated money and food items to help with the demand. The Infant Food Bank continued to provide assistance to families of infants under 1. During COVID-19, Brenda Holbein and the other volunteers have been handing out gift cards for baby items.

Through Zoom meetings we were able to connect with the Sunday School Children, hold a House Party and Halloween get-together for youth, create a socially distanced Christmas Pageant, and participate in the United Church of Canada Rendezvous in August.

Spirit Point Family Day Weekend was well attended, and fun was had by all. There were many activities for children, youth and the adults which included a mini winter carnival, snow shoeing, hiking, movies and the incredible dance party. Our hosts Larry, Shani and Mike French at Spirit Point provided wonderful food, amazing atmosphere and a perfect weather weekend.

Although we could not hold any in-person Mustard Seed productions we held an online Zoom reunion with the Mustard Seed alumni and produced four songs from Godspell and Cotton Patch Gospel which were enjoyed during our worship services. The Junior Mustard Seed children put together a virtual Jonah skit.

Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) live did not happen; however, children received an at home kit and had a VBC session of games on Zoom with Lisa.

Rally Back Picnic and the Women's Retreat were cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fundraising activities were hampered by the shutting down of the Church and then re-opening with limited numbers of people allowed during Sunday services. There is no financial report for 2020 for the fundraising activities.

Trinity United Church is truly blessed in the sharing of time, talents and donations for our activities, and we thank all of the volunteers and congregants who help support the Christian Education and Outreach Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Co-Chairs Sue Miller & Diane Cook

Finance



For the year of 2020, our expenses exceeded income by about \$3,300, a positive result in view of the Pandemic restrictions and unexpected building repairs. Thank you to all the people who donated in one way or another to achieve this positive outcome.

Total expenses of \$407,000 were 3% below budget, with a number of expense areas being close to budget. Special project expenses for the roof, fireside room and interior ceilings totaled \$64,000. A special "Thank You" is extended to those folks who donated a total of \$39,700 towards these projects.

Two thirds of the outstanding loans for the Roof Restoration Fund were paid off in September, with the hope of paying the balance by spring.

Total income of \$403,700 was 4% below budget, with a significant shortfall in Offerings being a major contributor. A priority in our 2021 Budget is increasing our PAR offerings by about 15%. Food Shelf and

Infant Food Shelf expenses were significantly higher this year as Trinity answered the increased need in our community and shifted to a more costly delivery because of COVID-19 protocols. We allocated amounts totaling \$9,400 from our deferred Infant Food Shelf funds and Food Shelf investment in order to meet this need, which impacted our total income in a positive way.

Fundraising was another income area that was hard hit by Pandemic restrictions, with income of \$18,000 being 40% below budget. In spite of the Pandemic, Trinity folks undertook some fundraising activities that are greatly appreciated. Also appreciated are the estate and memorial donations adding up to about \$26,000.

Kudos to Treasurer Michelina for submitting applications and obtaining Government financial assistance offered to organizations during the Pandemic. A wage subsidy of \$14,000 has helped to pay personnel expenses and an interest-free loan of \$40,000 provides a contingency in the event of unforeseen operating expenses.

The church bank balance at year end is almost \$45,000.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee continues to meet monthly to carry out the functions outlined in the Church By-Laws. Members in 2020 were: Bill Brownlee, Michelina Beam, Natalya Brown, John Haflidson, Brenda Holbein, Stephen Davis and Maurice Laporte . Our treasurer is Michelina Beam and our envelope and PAR administrator is Wanda Gleason. We are grateful to all these people, plus the tellers and ushers who handle the offerings, for their contribution to our congregation.

Respectfully submitted by John Haflidson - Chair

Ministry & Personnel

The year 2020 was anything but "normal". However, the normal business has had to go on despite COVID-19. Much stress has been placed on our church family, on our wonderful staff, and on the volunteers who still make things happen in front of and behind the scenes. This is especially true of those who put together our weekly Sunday morning virtual services which are a treasure for our congregation.

Many probably do not know or really understand how these services are produced, aired, and how they have evolved over the months. Those responsible for these "labours of love" sometimes find there are very stressful situations that occur from time to time.

As a congregation we must remember that we are all one family working together toward a common goal. We should remember that "we would do and say to others only what we would have them do and say to us"

Our battle with COVID-19 is far from over. We will "overcome" as a family and as a church and we must continue to isolate, to wear a mask and to be kind. We must continue to work with and pray for our leaders and all those who help to make our "NOVEL" church experience a viable and sustainable reality.

The members of your Ministry and Personnel Team are Brad Stenning, Darlene Laferriere, Anna Wright, Bryan Boothe, John Peddie, and Don Haslam. Our task is to be the liasons with the staff, and between the staff and the congregation. God bless you all in 2021 and keep you safe.

Submitted by the Ministry and Personnel Team

Pastoral Care and Visiting

The Covid -19 pandemic of 2020 had a dramatic effect upon all forms of church life and activities, including those of the Pastoral Care and Visiting Committee. Worship services at long term care facilities and assisted living centers were no longer possible. As community wide lockdown restrictions expanded, we were unable to make individual visits to people in hospital and nursing homes. In the absence of face to face contact, a decision was made to create lists of Trinity members and adherents who would be most at risk of suffering isolation and loneliness due to social distancing measures. Committee members were invited to adopt a practice of regular phone calls with a group of people to maintain connections and express care and concern.

This continued throughout the year and many people benefited from the calls that helped people to realize they are valued members of the Trinity family and they are not forgotten. When special concerns for assistance were identified, needs were communicated to church staff. One positive outcome from this network was

the development of new friendships through the sharing of life and stories from the past. Committee members devoted considerable time and effort in demonstrating compassion and maintaining a vital sense of connection throughout these challenging times.

Birthday visits for people aged 90 and over were also curtailed, though cards created by Bill Brownlee were delivered.

It is important to mention that many expressions of caring and support including the sending of cards and letters, deliveries of food, crafts and worship DVD's all helped to overcome the burden of isolation. We look forward to a future when we can once again meet as a committee and enjoy the in-person pastoral care activities that are part of who we are as a church.

Respectfully submitted; Richard Smith, Chair

Worship

The committee consists of Rev. Dr. Ted Harrison, Betty Farris, Marlene Little, Jean Rideout, Claudette Brown, Marian Robinson, Rod Carley, Wanda Gleason, Chris Ford and Bonnie-Rae Bailey. Thank you to these people for their ongoing work to make Trinity's services run smoothly.

The worship committee supports the minister by ensuring that all areas of the worship service are carried out effectively. The committee schedules Sunday Lift operators, ushers, lay leaders and the Sunday custodian, prepares the chancel for each service, prepares the Elements for Communion, and assists with Baptisms. In addition, the committee schedules members of the Board to serve communion throughout the year.

Worship in the sanctuary was cancelled from Mar 15th, 2020 until Sept 13th, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We returned to in-person services on September 20th, 2020 with strict new protocols to protect our congregation. In-person worship was again closed immediately after our Christmas Eve Services and as of February 21th, 2021 continue to be suspended.

While we were out of the sanctuary, we were so blessed to have a dedicated technology team to pre-record the service so that we could worship at home by watching the service on YouTube. Once we returned to the sanctuary, the recording continued with live streaming and through YouTube. We are so thankful for the work of John Roberts and his team.

When in-person services were conducted, new protocols included health screening, maintaining a weekly contact tracing list, hand sanitizing, cleaning of high touch surfaces, maintaining 2 metre distancing, directional traffic flow, mask wearing and capacity limits. Plexiglass pods were installed in the choir area so that we could continue to enjoy live musicians and vocalists. Protocols were established for the use of microphones. New procedures were written for the ushers, lay readers, and lift operators. We continue to follow direction from Public Health to keep Trinity a safe place and adapt as policies change. Thank you to Sue Miller who volunteered to act as team leader for Sunday services. She ensured that the pandemic protocols were followed by the weekly volunteers.

Each service included some pre-recorded segments, so participants were not restricted by their presence in North Bay. We enjoyed seeing former members take part in these pre-recorded services.

Sandy Haslam decorated the front of the sanctuary beautifully for Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day services. Rev. Kathy McCallum led the Remembrance Day service on November 8th, 2020 in Rev. Ted's absence.

In preparation for Advent, the sanctuary was decorated under the direction of Nancy Dewar-Stenning, with the assistance of Noreen and Ross Brewer, Gladys Banks-Byer, Keith Bryer, Don and Jean Rideout and Lillian Roberts. It looked magnificent.

Communion on the first day of Advent, Nov 29th was adapted to accommodate our safety protocols. Communion packages that included a cracker and juice were available for pickup as worshipers entered the sanctuary. This was well received.

The Longest Night Service held on December 21st with our friends from St. Andrews United Church had to adapt to the new protocols but was thoughtful and meaningful.

There were 2 services on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. The services were identical with the 4 p.m. service live streamed and recorded. The Sunday School presented "A Pandemic Pageant" written by Darlene Laferriere and recorded virtually. It was worthy of an award.

Weekly Sunday attendance has ranged from 34 to 50 people. These numbers include staff, volunteers, and worshipers. This has been an unprecedented year full of challenges, changes and firsts. We are appreciative of how the Trinity staff and others have pivoted and adapted to the changes. The Worship committee will continue to adapt to the current circumstances.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie-Rae Bailey

Trustees

The Board of Trustees remained the same in 2020 as the previous year with Kirk Elliott serving as Chairperson, Jean Mitchell, John Roberts, Jean Rideout, Sue Elliott, Sandra Rozicki, Don Bain, Don Bell, and Michelina Beam (staff support) with Bob Cooney, who had completed his term, graciously agreeing to extend his commitment to the work of the Trustees.

Sandra Rozicki remained as Trustee Secretary with John Roberts serving as the representative to the Building and Grounds Committee.

The Board of Trustees is entrusted with those matters related to the fixed and fiscal property of the congregation, in accordance with the Trusts of Model Deeds set out in The Manual: The United Church of Canada: Appendix II.

In carrying out their duties, the Trustees ensure that the church building and contents are adequately insured. An inventory review of the church contents is conducted to confirm that the insurance is both adequate and current. The Trustees also ensure that sufficient liability insurance coverage is carried to protect the congregation and staff against personal liability arising from actual or alleged claims of negligence or damages.

The collapse of the ceiling in the Fireside room this past summer reinforces the value of having adequate insurance coverage. Fortunately, July's accident was classified as a "collapse" and our claim, totaling a little more than \$50,000.00 for repairs and the contents of the room, was paid by our insurance provider. My thanks to Bob and Betty Cooney, and to Sue who gave graciously of their time and knowledge helping me navigate the finer points of settling the claim with the insurance company.

Dave McKenny, Nancy Dewar-Stenning, Lillian Roberts and Judy Biondi have taken on the task of redecorating. This room is used by almost every group of the church and this decorating committee has worked very hard to revitalize this valuable space. We can all look forward to being back in our spiritual home and the unveiling of a new Fireside room.

Kirk Elliott, Chair

ROOF FUNDRAISING

2020 put the brakes on many of the planned events. We started the year with the Taste of India dinner raising \$4005.00, the secret book club raised \$4,115.00, the decadent dessert auction raised \$1,614. With other donations, our total fundraising for the roof for 2020 was \$49,920.

Total Roof Donations and Fundraising - July 2019 to Dec 2020	\$162,777.00
Total Roof Project Cost - July 2019 to Dec 2020	\$182,170.00
Total Still Remaining to recover Roof Project costs	\$19,393.70

Stay tuned for fundraising events in 2021. We are so close to our goal.

Respectfully submitted, Darlene Laferriere

North Bay Union Cemetery

Circa 1915, four North Bay churches, Trinity United, St. Andrew's United, Calvin Presbyterian and First Baptist, joined together and established the "Union" Cemetery which, thanks to many dedicated volunteers, has faithfully served the local community ever since.

The cemetery functions under the Cemeteries Act of Ontario. It operates under Rules and Regulations in accordance with Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations guidelines. The Cemetery is financially self-supporting with the exception of an annual donation of \$200.00 from each of the four member churches. The cemetery's revenue is derived from plot sales and burial fees and the proceeds are used to pay all operating expenses including facility maintenance and perpetual care. Any excess funds are held in Trust in accordance with the Cemeteries Act.

The current members of the Union Cemetery Board are; Henry Drenth - Chairman, (Calvin), David McKee - Treasurer (Calvin), Ted Thompson (Calvin), Stuart Bailey (St. Andrew's), and Ross Brewer (Trinity). 1st Baptist church is unrepresented on the Board at this time.

Statistics for 2020

Plot Sales - Cremation 3, Casket - 5

Burials - Cremation 12, Casket - 4

Submitted by, Ross Brewer

Monday Morning Food Shelf

The Monday Morning Food Shelf, as an essential service to those in need in our community, continued to offer food support throughout the pandemic. With the guidance of the Health Unit and our own Covid Risk Management Team, the Food shelf established some COVID-19 protocols, which continue to remain in place. The Food Shelf intake area was moved to the lobby outside the McIntyre door. Greeted by Lisa Blais, our Faith Formation and Outreach Minister, clients were given a pre-packaged food bag along with whatever extra items we had on hand each week. Food bags are packed for single people as well as families. In addition to the standard food items we give out each week we were able to offer items such as toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, socks, hats, mitts and other occasional purchased or donated food items such as apples, potatoes, peanut butter, canned milk and cereal.

Some of our volunteers took a break this past year in order to remain safe during the pandemic. A small group of volunteers do the regular shopping coordinated by Jean Rideout. Other volunteers pack bags and put away food each week. We are grateful to all our regular volunteers. Shopping to keep our shelves filled is a mammoth task (we go through about 1,000 food items a month) and our shopping crew deserve a lot of credit for keeping us supplied and containing the cost.

The Food Bank would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the legacy of support that Doris-Rae Brownlee has given to the Food Bank over many years. Doris-Rae passed away in December and had been instrumental in organizing the shopping and finding the sales in order to keep our expenses down. She had been a champion of the Food Shelf for many, many years and we will miss her.

There was an increased demand for our Food Shelf this year due to the pandemic. The Food Shelf clients were (and are) grateful that we continue to be open. Our work continues thanks to the generosity of Trinity's congregation. We could not carry on without your donations and we hope you will continue to support this worthy outreach.

Submitted by Lisa Blais, on behalf of the Food Bank Program

FOOD SHELF OPERATING ACCOUNT 2020		
Bank/Register Balance December 31, 2019.		\$1806.34
RECEIPTS:		
From Trinity Food Shelf Account February	\$2500.00	
From Trinity Food Shelf Account March	\$2500.00	
		\$5000.00
EXPENDITURES:		
To AOTS for Gift Cards.	\$2900.00	
To Shoppers for cash purchases	\$1278.77	
		\$4178.77
RECEIPTS/EXPENDITURES		\$821.23
Respectfully Submitted by Bill Brownlee		

The Trinity Infant Food Shelf

Creating Healthy Futures by Providing Infant Essentials Today

For over 135 years Trinity United Church has played a significant role in the community as a safe and welcoming place for families to gather and meet their spiritual and basic needs.

Trinity Infant Food Shelf was initially founded in September 2014 by the Trinity Food Bank Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Christian Education Committee. Every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm, volunteers meet with caregivers of infants less than twelve months of age, in the Fellowship Hall to offer access to basic necessities for their infants during the critical first year of life.

This program is offered to caregivers on low income, monthly and includes diapers, baby food, baby wipes, bottom cream, baby bottles, baby blankets, soothers, thermometers, infant sleepers, plus a variety of changing items thanks to the generosity of the North Bay and Trinity Community. Pregnant women in their last trimester of pregnancy are also assisted in gathering items for a layette so they would be prepared on the birth of their child. The cost to support each family monthly was approximately 70 dollars per monthly.

In addition to the material items offered, volunteers also engaged in education on safe sleep, good nutrition for both baby and mom, and up to date information on child development with a free “Looksee Pocket” and sleep sack. Assistance to connect with Community supports like Addiction Services, Social Services, CAPC, and Public Health is offered whenever possible.

In March 2020 with the onset of COVID 19 the Infant Food Shelf had to change how we interacted with our target group in order to meet Public Health Standards with regard to COVID. These changes were implemented to protect the caregivers and volunteers from exposure to this devastating virus. Instead of picking up their supplies, each caregiver registered with the program, was given a \$50 dollar gift card for Walmart monthly This was distributed from the Trinity McIntyre Street door by Brenda Holbein {Volunteer Extraordinaire} and Lisa Blais as back up. They also delivered gift cards to families in the community who didn’t have transportation to Trinity.

In Addition, the Infant Food Shelf also works very closely with the Community Action Program for Women, MotherCare Nipissing and the Healthy Baby/Healthy Children Program to maximize our limited resources and assist with the distribution of the Gift Card to local families and across the district who are unable to visit our site. We continued to give each family a sleep sack and Looksee Checklist to monitor their infant’s development in addition to the gift card for diapers and food. The number of families needing assistance continues to fluctuate with over 30 active cases, including three sets of twins in February. Last week alone we opened three new cases. We estimate assisting over 60 families annually.

We are very grateful to the many community supports that have continued to be very generous given our inability to fundraise. This includes Trinity United Church, Nipissing Knox United Church, Trinity AOTS men’s group, Living Fit, Odd Fellows, UCW, IODE, Retired Teachers Association, and dozens of individual donations.

My sincere thanks to Brenda Holbein who meets with the families to give them their gift card and register new families weekly and to Lisa Blais for being her back up. Hopefully in time we will be able to resume the face to face contact with the caregivers and babies that we miss so much.

Submitted by Linda McLay

Junior Choir

2020 began with a group of almost 15 enthusiastic young people – a pleasure to work with! Members range in age from SK to Grade 8.

Unfortunately, with the onset of Covid19, we had to suspend choir in mid-March, with the closing of our church due to Covid protocols.

I would like to thank Chris Mogan for sharing his talent and his time with us as our choir accompanist. Also, thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who help with learning words and who do the driving that make it possible to have a choir.

I appreciate all of the support, and look forward to resuming choir when the covid protocols allow the return of regular church activities.

Thank you,

Laura Farris-Einarson, Junior Choir Director

APPLE PIE PROJECT

2020 was the year of virtual apple pies! With creative advertising, and a YouTube tutorial on how to make an apple pie we raised \$5,275.00 This was an incredible amount considering there were no pies! I hope that we will be able to provide actual pies in September 2021 and resume this beloved project.

Darlene Laferriere

AOTS Report

Despite the Coronus Virus limiting our meetings, the AOTS Men’s Group of Trinity United Church is still out there doing our usual work. A huge Thank You goes out to all Trinity Members and friends of Trinity who are still purchasing our Gift Cards. By purchasing Gift Cards, you are enabling your AOTS to continue to support many of the activities which take place at Trinity.

A big thank you is also sent to Ed Rose who continues to be the driving force behind the ordering and delivery of the Cards. As a point of interest, it is noted that Trinity purchased \$4400 in Orchards Gift cards and they give back to us the largest percentage of any gift card.

In the past year AOTS has provided funds to Trinity.

As we wind down the past year, we can only look forward to getting together again for fellowship and our monthly breakfasts at Burger World.

Submitted by David McKenney, AOTS Chair

AOTS Financial Statement to 31 December 2020

Register Balance
1 January 2020 \$ 4,216.31

	Receipts	Expenses	Difference	
Breakfasts	855.00	607.83	\$ 247.17	
Gift Cards	115,565.00	111,815.37	\$ 3,749.63	
Soup Tasting	\$ 1,281.00	\$ 169.76	\$ 1,111.24	
Memberships	300	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Donations	200	\$ 5,111.74	\$ (4,911.74)	
Fundraisers	1400	\$ 363.45	\$ 1,036.55	

Totals \$ 119,601.00 \$ 118,068.15 \$ 1,532.85 \$ 1,532.85

Register/Bank
Balance
31 December 2020 \$ 5,749.16

**Expenses paid since
March**

- \$2000 to Trinity - commitment
- \$ 500 to Trinity for permanent direction signs
- \$200 to Burger World - Ham donation returned
- \$4400 to Orchards for gift cards
- \$500 to Noah Dugas Trust
- \$300 to Rob Farris for Plexiglass
- \$1000 to Infant Food Shelf
- \$500 to Nipissing Serenity Hospice

UCW Report

Not much has happened this year. We had three meetings. In January, Lisa spoke about “How to Be a Better Me”. She discussed acts of kindness; and the gift bag programme, which reaches out into the community.

In February, the programme was “Love” based on 1st John.

Bob Cook was the guest at the March meeting. His topic was “Making a Difference”. He discussed his work in many parts of Canada with Corrections Services.

The most interesting thing was that we discussed refurbishing the Fireside Room. It was felt that the room needed a “face lift”!

We were able to keep up with our charitable donations, through the ladies’ generosity. These monies were definitely needed considering the toll the pandemic has taken on the community.

We look forward to the coming year. It will be fun to get together again, and share ideas. We will see how the year progresses.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Biondi, President.

UCW Treasurer's Report 2020	
Balance in register	9275.84
Receipts	
Offerings	3550.00
Luncheons	1463.00
Donations	1650.00
Disbursements	
Speaker	50.00
Mission and Service	3200.00
Trinity United Official Board	3250.00
Staff Christmas Stipend	405.00
Bank Fees	20.25
Expenses (luncheons and catering)	600.00
Donations	
Meals on Wheels	100.00
Canadian Bible Society	200.00
Packsac Smiles	500.00
North Bay Regional Hospital	200.00
Nipissing Serenity Hospice	200.00
Trinity Food Shelf	400.00
Trinity Infant Food Shelf	400.00
Trinity Families	200.00
Bank Balance	5842.34
Outstanding cheques	200.00

Prayer Shawl Report

There has been one Blessing this year. There are a number of shawls/lap robes in the cupboard if anyone is in need of one. Once things are opened up, the church office can help you get one to give to someone in need of support.

A number of “pocket prayers” have been created to take to someone in need of extra thoughts. A generic prayer has been placed inside each one, but more can be added.

We continue to create these “works of art” prayerfully in our homes. We hope they continue to bring blessings to those who receive them.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Biondi, Leader.

SCOUTS CANADA – 1ST NORTH BAY

Well, another year has passed in your Scouting family; and what a year it has been. We were closed down in March and did not return. In September we could meet outdoors, so we did until it got too cold for the Beavers to meet. The Cubs, Scouts and Venturer’s continued to meet ,as they are a little hardier, until the lock down at Christmas. The groups are now meeting over zoom. We are happy to be moving along still.

Our group, 1st North Bay and the West Ferris group, amalgamated over the lockdown. So now we have a group called North Bay Scouting Group - we are still sponsored by Trinity. Thank you. Leadership has a lot of the familiar faces along with some new faces. This is going well, with wonderful leadership.

Much of our fund - raising is of course on hold, but our expenses are also on hold. Scouts Canada had a coffee campaign in the fall, all done online. Seems to have gone well. Maple syrup was still a good fund - raiser. Apple Day and Scoutrees and Church Parade were all cancelled.

As we move forward, we will continue to *Do Our Best* to provide an interesting program for our youth. We are all looking forward to when we can meet again, go camping and have outings. We are still looking for more leaders to come and join us.

A special “thank you” to all our adult volunteers for the time they are putting into this worthwhile program.

Submitted by: Anna Wright

<u>Scouts Canada - First North Bay</u>				
Financial Statement to 31 December 2020				
	Income	Expense	Profit/(Loss)	
Register Balance 01 January 2020				11,161.63
Fund Raiser: Syrup	\$5,477.00	3,536.00	\$1,941.00	
Registration	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	
Equipment	\$0.00	\$184.70	(\$184.70)	
Activities	\$0.00	\$780.00	(\$780.00)	
Administration	\$0.00	\$101.61	(\$101.61)	
Donations	\$29.00	\$2,000.00	(\$1,971.00)	
Bank Charges	\$44.55	\$49.50	(\$4.95)	
Totals	\$5,560.55	6,651.81	\$1,091.26)	(\$1,091.26)
Register Balance 31 December 2020				\$10,070.37

Tuesday Morning Coffee Group

Each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. throughout the school year, the group meets for coffee or tea, fellowship and fun.

This year the coffee group, like many other groups, was impacted by Covid. At the start of the year the group enjoyed a variety of activities and topics: group cooking, welcoming special guest speakers, crafts, self-improvement, healthcare, and of course, laughing and eating together! The group also met for an occasional zoom catch-up.

The cost of running the program is financed through the weekly \$3 fee, donations and the occasional Fundraiser! Sincere thanks to our helpful babysitters Navy and Skye! The group is led by Christine Kuehl and her leadership is much appreciated.

All women are invited to come out anytime – on a regular or occasional basis (once it is safe to do so). An update on when we will return to our regular Tuesday morning meetings will be posted on the Tuesday Coffee Group Facebook page and shared via email.

Youth and Young Adults

The youth and young adult groups are an active part of the life at Trinity. Trinity youth lay read, teach Sunday School, help with Trinity projects, usher, greet, serve Communion and are always there to lend a hand when needed.

Youth at Trinity participate in activities locally and in the wider Church. Although the pandemic impacted our ability to meet in person, some of the youth group were able to attend Rendez-Vous, a (virtual) gathering of youth, young adults and their leaders from across Canada and have continued to gather virtually for games and social time. The youth group continues to be lead by Sandra Brownlee, with staff support from Lisa Blais.

The Youth Group provides a major outreach project each Christmas. The Christmas Bag Outreach project provides over 150 Christmas bags for youth and adults in our community. This year, due to the pandemic, our Christmas bag outreach was scaled down. Lisa packed approximately 75 bags which were delivered to Hope's Kitchen for those in need in our community. The Nipissing Attendance Centre also received some bags as well. Thank-you to all the people who donated items and money to this wonderful outreach project and thank-you to the Trinity Congregation for your support, as always!

Submitted by Sandra Brownlee and Lisa Blais

Mustard Seed

Although we were unable to present a live, in person musical this year, we took our challenge as an opportunity and hosted an online Mustard Seed reunion with alumni. It was wonderful to connect alumni from our inaugural Godspell presentation in 2007/2008 to our more recent Mustard Seed graduates. The alumni cast put together four musical pieces that were digitally mastered and assembled by Hannah McCallum and Lisa Blais and directed by Darlene Laferriere. These musical offerings were shared in Trinity's worship services and were made available on Mustard Seed's Facebook page.

The Mustard Seed alumni who participated were:

Angela Blais, Nick Boegel, Diane Brownlee, Sandra Brownlee, Colton Chaput, Joe Drinkwalter, Jordan Furrow, Robert Leitner, Matt McLean, Samantha Peddie, Matthew Robinson and Emma Webster. Thanks to Marcel MacDonald and Ted Chase for contributing musical accompaniment.

The current Mustard Seed players contributed to a re-telling of the story of Jonah for our worship service in May. Children recorded their parts at home and then Lisa edited them all together.

This year's Mustard Seed players were:

Elinor Cassell, Evelyn Cassell, Kaydence Einarson, Nevaeh Einarson, Amelia MacDonald, Rowan MacDonald, Marcel MacDonald, Leighton Moore, and Graham Shaver.

Submitted by Lisa Blais

Trinity Families

Trinity Families is an important and generally thriving group here at Trinity. Its mandate is to make families feel welcome, draw them in with fun, affordable activities, and provide them a positive social environment in the church. For obvious reasons, in 2020 most of our activities had to be unfortunately cancelled.

We were lucky enough, however, to manage to enjoy our highly anticipated Family Day Winter Retreat at Spirit Point in February of 2020, before the pandemic forced the wide-spread closures. The theme for 2020 was Carnival! We celebrated with singing, dancing, games, crafts, winter fun, and our annual Sunday worship out on the frozen lake. The bonds and friendships that are established and nourished at this annual retreat cannot be understated. We leave Spirit Point each year with a fresh sense of connection, community, and grace. We received a generous grant from the United Church which helped to help keep the cost of the retreat down, combined with our fundraising efforts.

This was a most trying year for all groups here at Trinity, and Trinity Families was no exception. We very much look forward to the day when we can gather again for camping, parties, movie nights, parades, and other such events that have become synonymous with our group! We all certainly look forward to a brighter 2021 and pray for the day we can gather safely together again.

Submitted by Carling Lutecki/ Marcel McDonald/Lisa Blais



Our Online Services Story

On Saturday, March 14th, 2020 the Trinity United Church (TUC) Board voted to close our church due to COVID-19 concerns, cancelling our Sunday, March 15th service. Then on Monday, March 16th our provincial government recommended the closure of all churches in Ontario.

George Bott ran a United Church regional webinar on March 16th on how to use Zoom to build online services. That got us started and we posted our 1st YouTube service, built from Zoom and cell phone recordings, for Sunday, March 22nd. Our virtual choir made its 1st appearance the following Sunday, March 29th. Our virtual choir consisted of 6 members for that service.



The learning curve for those first few months was pretty steep - a lot of you had to figure out how to record a video of yourselves and, probably harder, get it to us. We developed a virtual choir process - then those of you in our virtual choir had to learn how to sing along with a recording and record yourselves at the same time. Several of us had to get good enough at video editing to assemble the services, then Lisa had to learn how to upload them to YouTube and burn some DVDs. Rev. Ted continued to script his thoughtful services, but now he had to recruit people to make all the required videos, and he had to master delivering his message without an audience to preach to. He also embraced the technology by finding innovative ways of using it to help deliver his services.

Easter week was busy with four services. Our virtual choir was up to 12 members but we switched to audio-only recordings to simplify the process. The rest of the spring involved a lot more services. Several people stepped up to help with the video production, most notably Eve Harrison, Sarah Cook and of course Lisa Blais. Betty and Rob were busy creating recording masters and our wonderful virtual choir produced a lot of great music. There were several interesting items discussed at our May 5th Board meeting. We struck a committee to start working on "hybrid services" and COVID-19 safety issues. Rev. Ted noted that he'd miss the visual aids to his sermons.

By May 17th our virtual choir, with Betty's constant encouragement, was over 20 members. The collage above is our Virtual Choir makeup in early 2021. We managed to get far enough ahead that the virtual choir could take two months off in the summer. Thanks to the other video editors I headed off to Manitoba and then to our cottage for most of the summer. Eve was recording and editing all of her Dad's segments, Lisa was recording and editing the children's segments, and Sarah was assembling all the pieces.

On June 2nd the TUC Board voted to continue livestreaming Post-COVID, and discussed scenarios for what we called "Hybrid Services" (see definition below). After a lot of web browsing, several hundred YouTube 'how-to' videos, and a few online courses ("PTZOptics Camera Line Training" and "OBS Live Streaming Course") under our belt we had a plan. The camera we wanted to use hadn't been available in Canada since March but we managed to purchase one in August. On September 13th we streamed our 1st "Hybrid Service" using our new PTZOptics NDI 30x camera, several repurposed PCs, and a free program called Open Broadcaster Software (OBS).

The terms we use to describe the four phases of our online services evolution are as follows.

Pre-COVID Services - These are the "normal" in-Sanctuary services, prior to March, 2020.

Video Services - These are the online services that we started to post to YouTube in March, 2020 and through the summer. These are videos we build off-line. Each participant records their segment at their home, then we assemble them into a single video. We also burn a few DVDs for members who don't have good Internet, and for nursing homes. Our 1st online service on March 22nd was a Video Service

Hybrid Services - These are a flexible mix of live and pre-recorded material. We stream them to YouTube live on Sunday mornings, and also burn a few DVDs. We started our Hybrid Services once our church reopened and we were allowed a small congregation. One goal of our Hybrid Services was to deliver, as much as possible, the same experience to people in the Sanctuary as to those who chose to stay home. We also ran a few with only 10 people in the Sanctuary - the max allowable by the Ontario government - but we decided to go back to Video Services until we're allowed to have a small congregation again.

Post-COVID Services - We aren't there yet, but these will be our "back to normal" services. Well, back to our "new norm," whatever that is going to be. We'll continue to livestream our services after the pandemic, making it available to congregants who are either home sick or travelling, and to new friends wherever they are. Some other milestones are September 20th which was our 25th online service. Then on October 11th we



switched from a single large rear-projection screen to two smaller screens, experimenting with what a permanent solution might look like.

November 8th was our 1st use of the "choir pods" built by Rob Farris and Chris Clarke with financial support from a Trinity family and our AOTS. The choir pods let us have live singing in our Sanctuary for the 1st time since March. The picture below shows the choir pods in use. You can't really see it, but they are 3-sided plexiglass enclosures, with a mic in each, that isolate each of the performers in a COVID-safe manner.



enclosures, with a mic in each, that isolate each of the performers in a COVID-safe manner.

Lisa Blais took over the audio mixing of the virtual choir music in November.

November 15th was our 1st use of the "storybook camera." We started to use the storybook camera for our Hybrid Services, but below, Eve, our master video editor, is setting it up for the period when Ontario's stay-at-home order forced us back to Video Services. The storybook camera has been a real success and we hope to use it Post-COVID.

The TUC Board approved the budget for a permanent live streaming build on November



17th. November 29th marked our 100th virtual choir recording.

The audio requirements for live streaming are a lot more complicated than they were for regular services, but Marcel and Rowan MacDonald, and our Allen Heath QU-24 digital mixer, have more than met all the challenges.

Eve Harrison and Michael Miller both volunteered to program and run the streaming system, and either can do



it entirely on their own. The action shot on the left is Michael streaming a Sunday morning Hybrid Service. So many of you have submitted great videos to help with our services. We are truly blessed with so much creativity and talent. The children's segments that Lisa and others produced were really special.

We have also had many opportunities to work with the other North Bay United Churches, building even stronger relationships that we had before.

Our efforts peaked again Christmas week, with a Sunday service, the Longest Night service, two Christmas Eve services, then another Sunday service. It was a long week but with the experience we

had gained from producing online services for most of 2020 we got through it no problem, although we were rather relieved when it was over.

Then on December 21st the Ontario government announced a province-wide lockdown (Boxing Day to Jan 9th), so we live streamed our December 27th and January 3rd, 2021 service with only 10 people in the church. After that we switched back to the Video Services for the rest of the stay-at-home order. January 10 was our 45th online service and our 110th virtual choir recording.

Upcoming plans include deploying the 2nd camera we just received and a new PC we just finished building. Next, after we do a bunch of wiring, we'll move the "tech table" to the rear of the Sanctuary beside the sound console. We'll also have to make a final decision about replacing the temporary projector screens with something more permanent - likely large screen TVs.

Thanks to all your involvement and support we've delivered a constant string of great services. And they're being watched by a large number of people from far beyond North Bay. I watch a lot of online services and I'm delighted with the quality of our services. We're in this for a while longer so please keep up your enthusiasm and creativity. If you have any ideas about anything we can improve on please share them.

Respectively submitted, John Roberts

Nomination Report

It is thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Board members and staff that make Trinity such a wonderful place for fellowship and worship. Volunteering for the Board of the church is very much a calling for people. As Chair of the Board, I wish to pass along my thanks to every current, retiring and new members. Your work makes us happen!

To ensure that our Board remains vibrant and fresh, the constitution of the church has placed limits on terms for serving members. A person can serve on the Board for two three-year terms plus a further extension year. After this, the member is required to take a one-year break. This year with our limited in person interactions due to the pandemic and lockdown, we have had significant challenges in filling the vacancies, created primarily through terms expiring.

Instead of our normal process, this year each committee chair was tasked with identifying vacancies and was asked to solicit interest in filling the roles. To address challenges in identifying and recruiting new volunteers while ensuring a functioning Board, a motion will be brought forward at the Annual Congregational Meeting to permit a one-year extension for all terms that were due to expire and if the person wishes to remain active.

I would like to recognize the following members of the 2020 Board that are retiring this year: Irma Benard (Building and Grounds), Jim Dickson (Building and Grounds), Wes Johnson (Finance/Stewardship), Karen Johnson (Finance/Stewardship) and Maurice Laporte (Finance).

New or returning to serving on committees are the following persons: Diane Cook (Christian Education and Outreach), Anne Smith (Christian Education), Rev. Gord Roberts (Finance) and Chris Clarke (Building and Grounds).

The report for vacancies and appointments for 2021/22 is as follows;

- ◆ Chair: Cindy Brownlee,
- ◆ Vice Chair: Vacant;
- ◆ Past Chair: Bob Cook;
- ◆ Secretary: Janice Brownlee;
- ◆ Member at Large: William Brownlee

Building & Grounds

Chair	Vacant
(Trustee Representative)	John Roberts
Members	Tony dePencier
“	Chris Clarke
“	Dave McKenny
“	Ryan Rozicki
“	Bob Cook

Christian Education & Outreach

Co-Chair	Sue Miller
Co-Chair	Diane Cook
(Co-Superintendent Sunday School)	Marcel MacDonald
(Co-Superintendent Sunday School)	Carling Lutecki
Youth Representative	Vacant
Members	Cindy Brownlee
“	Caroline Harrison
“	Linsey Mutch
“	Amanda Silk
“	Eric Brownlee
“	Sandra Brownlee
“	Anne Smith

Communications

Chair	John Roberts
(Staff Support)	Lisa Blais
Members	Ross Brewer (seconded)
“	Noreen Brewer (seconded)

Finance

Chair	John Hafidson
(Staff Support - Treasurer)	Michelina Beam
(Staff Support - Office Admin.)	Wanda Gleason
Members	Natalya Brown
“	Brenda Holbein
“	Bill Brownlee
“	Stephen Davis
“	Rev. Gord Roberts

Stewardship Subcommittee

Chair	Vacant
Members	Barb Roberts

Ministry & Personnel

Co-Chair	Brad Stenning
Co-Chair	Don Haslam
Members	Anna Wright
“	John Peddie
“	Bryan Boothe
“	Darlene Laferriere

Pastoral Care & Visiting

Chair	Rev. Richard Smith
(Staff Support - Office Admin.)	Wanda Gleason
Members	Rae Brownlee
	Maurice Laporte
	Bonnie Beam
	Shirley Myre
	John Sheridan
	Rob Farris
	Carolyn Crawford
	Claudette dePencier
	Noreen Brewer
	Pat Sadler

Worship

Chair	Bonnie Rae Bailey
(Staff Support - Minister)	Rev. Dr. Ted Harrison
(Staff Support - Minister of Music)	Betty Farris
Members	Marlene Little
	Jean Rideout
	Rod Carley
	Marion Robinson
	Claudette Brown
	Wanda Gleason
	Chris Ford

Canadian Shield Regional Council Representatives

Pastoral Relations Commission	Rev. Dr. Ted Harrison
Support to Communities of Faith Commission	Janice Brownlee
Property	Rev. Gord Roberts
Living into Right Relations	Lisa Blais
Youth and Young Adults	Lisa Blais
Youth and Young Adults	Cindy Brownlee
Representatives	Bill Brownlee
“	Don Haslam

Trustees

Chair	Kirk Elliot
(Staff Support - Treasurer)	Michelina Beam
Members	Jean Mitchell
“	John Roberts
“	Jean Rideout
“	Sue Elliott
“	Sandra Rozicki
“	Don Bain
“	Don Bell
“	Bob Cooney

Representatives to the TUC Board

The Minister, the Designated Lay Minister, the Treasurer,
the chairs/co-chairs of each of the Standing Committees

Trustees	Kirk Elliott
UCW/Prayer Shawls	Shirley Myre
AOTS	John Sheriden
Sunday School (Superintendent)	Marcel Macdonald
Sunday School (Superintendent)	Carling Lutecki
Youth & Young Adult Rep	Vacant

Honourary Elders

Noreen Brewer, Ross Brewer, Rae Brownlee, William (Bill) Brownlee, Thelma Patterson, Jean Rideout, Don Rideout, Evelyn Smith, Geneva Thompson

Honourary Elders Remembered

Desmond Anthony, Eileen Anthony, Ross Atkinson, Jessie Banks, Ken Banks, Fred Bell, Doris-Rae Brownlee, Robert Carr, Nancy Jean Perkins, Nona Phillips, Eleanor Rennick, Walter Smith, George (Bud) Thompson.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Cook, Chair, TUC Board

