

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

Fall Newsletter (Sept 2021)

From Rev. Ted's (Home) Desk: "Resurrecting our Practice of Church"

The Christian faith is all about resurrection, and this fall will present the opportunity to participate in a particular resurrection of our churches and our communities.

A pandemic lockdown was not a sabbatical or a staycation - but in many ways it has functioned as a powerful catalyst. COVID-19 has changed us - and, in some ways for the better! There is so much that we took for granted before the pandemic, many of us have now learned new skills and embraced new habits - hopefully these realities will continue to change and enrich our living.

The same will be true of our churches: we've leaned into previously unfamiliar technologies, we've stretched ourselves to be present to one another's needs. Our meetings, our worship and our outreach have all adapted - and now is a season to continue to remain open to novelty and change.

Ministers around the world are being warned: ***Resist an automatic blind return to old patterns!*** While COVID-19 has negatively impacted us in so many ways, it also provides the opportunity for a vital "reset" - whereby we can and should experiment with how we deliver worship, Sunday School, programs, fundraisers, social occasions, and inter-church cooperation. Ideally, this will result in the best of the old combined with the best of the new - which is a terrific vision of resurrection!

The gospel stories of the resurrected Christ make it clear that who he was AFTER resurrection is quite different than who he was before it. My prayer is that we - the Church as the Body of Christ - can embrace this new season of resurrection. Let us be guided by the Spirit into something exciting, surprising, and faithful.

Yours in that faith,



... from our Designated Lay Minister

It is hard to imagine what a post pandemic life will look like. We eagerly sit in hopeful anticipation of a return to some of our beloved events and activities. It is likely that we will continue to have to adapt and re-focus our plans in the year to come - we are getting a lot of practice doing that - but we know that our Church family is resilient, creative and committed to being - the church, even when we can't be *in* the church!

There have been many changes in our church family (and our building) this past year and a half. Just like our church building has endured some renovations, it is a wonderful opportunity to do some "renovating" of our programs and activities too. Do we add a little paint and try to freshen up what we already have built or will we decide to rebuild from scratch?

As we begin to rebuild our ministries and resume our activities, do take some time to reflect on what a post pandemic Trinity church might look like. This is a perfect opportunity to start a new group or pitch a new activity! Remember many of Trinity's long standing groups have continued to flourish by listening to the needs and interests of the members. If you have ideas that you would like to share about any of the existing groups or if you have an idea for a new group, please feel free to reach out to me - one of the best parts of my job is getting to collaborate with Trinity friends on a project!

Our fall season kicks off with our Rally Back Day family gathering on Sunday, September 12th. During morning worship, we will covenant with our Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers and officially kick off our Sunday School year! Of course, Sunday School will look a little different (see the Sunday School report for more information). In the afternoon, everyone is invited to attend our annual Rally Back gathering at Camp Tillicum. It is a fantastic way to spend time with your Trinity friends and family while enjoying fellowship, games and an afternoon vesper's service on the shores of Lake Nipissing!

Thank you for your generosity, your resilience, your creativity and your care. Thank you for being a part of our Church family. I look forward to seeing you this fall!

Lisa



... from our Minister of Music

As I write this report, we are unsure what the new government guidelines will dictate as we move toward late summer and fall.

What I do know is that Trinity's Virtual Choir will continue to provide musical selections for each Sunday service, and we will include as much live music as possible, by taking advantage of our music pods at the front of the church.

Thank you again to all our choir members for their many musical contributions for the past 16 months! We look forward to the time when we can all lead worship from our choir loft.

We are grateful to John Roberts, Lisa Blais, Michael Miller, Eve Harrison, and Marcel and Rowan MacDonald for their continued audio-visual support each week, and Laura Farris-Einarson for her talents on flute.

On behalf of the choir and myself, I wish to thank the many Trinity members for their kind words and continued support! Please let me know if you have any special musical requests.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Farris, Minister of Music

... from our Board Chair

Welcome back! (To what? From what?)

Typically, September is the welcome back from the rest and relaxation of summer vacation, a return to routine after a season of rest. Some see it as return to normal. Time to return to school, church, our extra-curricular events, clubs, groups, committees or after school sports activities. Perhaps a chance to reconnect with classmates, friends and neighbours after a summer pursuing other activities.

In this time of Covid the fall has been seen as the time when we will be able to begin to resume our 'normal' activities in a post pandemic world... but, it is not to be so. The two-week pandemic of March 2020 has fooled us with every season as we look ahead to when Covid will be behind us and we can return to normal. Covid has been like the mirage in the desert. We think we can see the other side of it until we get closer.

At this current time (mid August) it seems that our fall return to church will look much like our spring and summer. More masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing. The Trinity Covid Response team has been meeting all through the pandemic (on zoom of course) and carefully watching the public health directives to ensure that we are complying with all regulations while keeping everyone safe. I am really looking forward to the chance to gather again and hope the increase in vaccination rates will result in a decrease in Covid cases and lifting of restrictions. (mmm, I can already smell the fresh apples in anticipation of the apple pie project, hear the laughter of the children racing around the Friendship Hall after Sunday School, the sound of music filling the sanctuary as the congregation sings along). But we must proceed with baby steps as we slowly and carefully plan for a safe return to our normal Trinity routines.

The church may have been quiet in recent months, but if you have not been there in awhile you will notice some changes. The new fireside room looks fabulous! New furniture, bookshelves, flooring and the lighting is amazing. The windows along Ione's garden are now all covered in metal mesh to protect from vandalism and they look very nice while keeping our windows safe. The sanctuary has fabulous new technology so the need to have data projectors and screen on tables is no longer required.

The biggest change will be the change in custodian. Ryan Roziki served our church family as custodian for many years. Ryan also chaired the Buildings and Ground committee, is a Beaver leader with Scouts Canada, a Sunday School teacher and has his own landscaping business. Although I am sure we will still see Ryan around the church as a member of our church family we certainly wish him well on his future endeavours. If you would like to make a contribution towards a farewell gift for Ryan you may drop off your donation at the church office. Please indicate that it is for Ryan and submit by the end of September.

We welcome Don Hickey to our church family as our new custodian. He brings many years of custodial experience and will begin his responsibilities in the fall. Please join me in welcoming Don.

Welcome everyone...to a new season, to new times together, to connecting with your old church family and your new church family, welcome to fall. Welcome back.

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Psalm 96:12
Thanks be to God.

Cindy Brownlee
Board Chair

... from the Finance Committee

Income for the first seven months of 2021 is approximately \$190,700, 11% lower than last year due primarily to COVID restrictions. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the folks who contributed to Offerings, which accounts for 71% of income. Included in YTD income is a payment of \$15,570 from our insurance company to cover costs of replacing some items destroyed in the collapse of the Fireside Room ceiling.

Our 2021 YTD expenses of about \$205,400, which are 10% less than last year, exceed income by roughly \$14,700. Significant recent costs were incurred to replace windows on the Main Street side of the church building damaged by vandalism. The Board authorized the Building and Grounds Committee to engage a company to replace the damaged windows and install mesh coverings to provide improved durability. A special note of thanks goes to Bob Cook for his hard work and leadership on the window project.

Recent donations and fundraising proceeds have brought revenue for the Roof Restoration Fund to a total of about \$182,000, within \$1,000 of the total project cost. What a tremendous achievement by Trinity folks in raising this amount of money during a Pandemic! Recent fundraising events included the Virtual Cruise, Secret Book Club Version 2.0, Movie Night, Canada Day Picnic and T-shirt Fundraiser. The contribution of the people who organized and/or participated in these events is greatly appreciated. And on May 31st, Treasurer Michelina paid off the balance of the outstanding loans for the project.

Kudos to Michelina for doing the necessary work to take advantage of additional funds for our interest free loan provided by the Government for COVID assistance.

Looking ahead towards the autumn months, we continue to have a manageable bank balance that can help to cover potential deficits for a while. And we are hopeful that fundraising activities involving in-person gatherings can resume in September, including the Apple Pie Project which traditionally has been the Champion of Trinity fundraisers.

During these challenging times, Trinity continues to reach out and serve the wider community and the world. Your contributions towards this important work are much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by John Hafliidson

Update on our Streaming Technology project

With the board's approval we have replaced the projectors and screens in the Sanctuary with large TVs. there are two at the front of the Sanctuary and another on the balcony railing. The two at the front are on the walls kind of behind the pulpit and the lectern and seem to be viewable from just about anywhere in the pews. The one on the balcony railing faces the front and will serve two purposes. It will be a "confidence monitor" so Rev. Ted, Betty, and anybody else who'll be on the cameras can see what the cameras are capturing, and it will also allow the choir to see anything we're "projecting."

The next step is to move the "tech desk" to the back of the Sanctuary beside the sound system console. This will let us integrate the streaming system with the sound system and the lighting controller so we can hopefully manage all three with only one operator. This has been delayed several months while we've been trying to get an electrician in to run a bunch of cables for us.

With most of the project's spending behind us I can safely predict that the project will come in under budget.

We also have to figure out the next step for the "storybook camera." This has been a big hit, and we have the cameras to keep it working. What we have to do is figure out how to set it all up so the children can sit on the steps around Rev. Ted and see the book, all while we capture both the book and Rev. Ted with our cameras. We have an artist's easel which we hope will do the trick but haven't landed on the perfect setup yet.

... Tuesday Morning Coffee Group

We are looking forward to a time when our group can gather again. We are tentatively planning a return to Coffee Group on **Tuesday October 12**. Stay tuned for more information and a schedule of activities in early September.

We would love to have you join us for conversation and coffee (or tea). We are a non-denominational group of **friendly** and **welcoming** women of all ages who meet on Tuesday mornings throughout the school year. The program varies from week to week with guest speakers, cooking, crafts, gardening, child development, tours, health & nutrition and lots of other interesting events. **Childcare** is provided in a safe, fun and stimulating environment for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

Our group meets at Trinity United Church (at the corner of McIntyre & Ferguson) each Tuesday morning during the school year from 9:30 - 11:30. Cost is \$3.00 per week.

... Trinity UCW

It looks like things may gradually be returning to normal - whatever that is! With thoughts of that, I am hoping that UCW will be able to gather face-to-face in Sept. With that thought in mind, we will gather, hopefully in the Fireside Room on Mon. Sept. 13th at 1:00 pm. Please bring your mask. This date is subject to change depending on our Covid status at that time.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in real life. I am planning a worship service, and social time together. Many of us haven't seen each other since March 2020. I know that I am looking forward to some semblance of normalcy.

See you then.

Judy Biondi
President

... Trinity AOTS Men's Group

It seems like I just wrote a spring report, and just like that a fall report is required; my how Covid time does fly! Since we have been unable to meet as a group to this date, there is not much that has changed.

Our busiest person has been our gift card fundraising founder and order taker; Ed Rose. We certainly admire his dedication and expertise in this area; for once things at Trinity do get started again, many areas will be in need of support. You can help us to help youth and others of the church by purchasing your grocery or gas cards through us. You can fill out an order form (available from Ed) for the cards that you wish to use, enclose a cheque and forward them to Ed. A few days later, you'll have your cards, and the AOTS will get a percentage for our operating fund, to support youth. It sounds great, doesn't it, and it's a win-win; we just need your orders.

We also keep some cards on hand for your emergent orders, like Orchards for instance. And why not get your Tim Horton cards from us, and save looking for change while you are in the drive-through.

It seems our next busiest person has been our person in charge of welfare; Roman Rozicki, as a great number of "thinking of you" cards has been sent over the past 16 months of Covid closure.

At the writing of this report Moe Laporte is working with Burger World to see if we can have an August breakfast get-together. Failing that and if we and our city have not been reverted back into a lockdown situation; September 11th will be our first breakfast and meeting in many months. A special speaker is lined up with an interesting current events topic, for the meeting at the church following breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,
John Sheridan

The Trinity Testosterone Men's Canoe Adventure, 2021

Our Trinity Testosterone guys have been accustomed to having their trip on or around the June summer solstice-- but after missing that date for two years running, we'll settle for a hopefully bug-free autumn adventure into Temagami on September 24th-25th-26th! We're crossing our fingers that COVID will cooperate with these plans! Please sign up by calling or e-mailing the Trinity office. Registration is limited, and a waiting list will be in effect!

Membership Classes

Over the pandemic, several adherents of Trinity have inquired about taking on full membership in the church family - something that happens by transfer (if you are already a member of another church) or by "declaration of faith" during a service of worship. This fall we will plan to have a couple of relaxed after-church sessions to learn all about Trinity and the United Church so that we can welcome you to full membership in your church family before we get to Advent and Christmas!

Please contact the church or Rev. Ted with your questions, your expression of interest, or if you're wondering what your actual membership status is!

Volunteer Help Needed

The Monday Morning Food Shelf is looking for volunteers to help pack bags and distribute food.

Volunteers work in a team with 3 other people.

The time commitment is one Monday every 4 - 6 weeks from 9 am to 11:30 am.

It is a wonderful opportunity to help others.

If you are able to offer some time to help, please speak with Lisa Blais or

Jim Liddell or email Lisa at blais.trinity@gmail.com

Rally Back Celebrations - and some Baby Love!

On Sunday September 12th, we will "Rally Back" to Trinity, with hopes that Covid restrictions will allow us to hold adapted live worship, as well as many of our regular fellowship and special events. In addition to morning worship, the "Christian Education and Outreach" Committee is planning a "soft" return to our Rally Back picnic tradition. Because Trinity members Kawai & Julie are expecting a baby in November, our Picnic celebrations will include some special Baby Shower games. To contribute to a Baby Shower gift, please be in touch with Cassie Bott-Baxter at cassiebott@gmail.com or 705-845-1894.

Formerly Loved Treasures

The North Bay Oddfellows run a quality lightly-used furniture store at 126 McIntyre St E, across the street from Trinity. "*Affordable lightly-used furniture, area rugs, artwork, lamps, dining, and la-Z boy chairs, and tables for people who need them.*" If you have items to donate, please contact Howard Kizell at 705-471-0860. Open Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. or by special appointment.

Sunday School – For children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8

We are tentatively planning a return to Sunday School this fall! We will kick off our Sunday School year with our Rally Back celebrations on Sunday September 12th. We will celebrate our Church family with games and activities during Sunday morning worship and continue the celebration at our Rally Back Event at Camp Tillicum later in the afternoon.

Of course, like every other group and activity, we will be following Covid guidelines and will adapt the program accordingly. That may mean we do some of our lessons outdoors in the garden or in a larger space in the church and, possibly, continue to wear masks. We will do our best to ensure that we provide meaningful and fun Sunday School lessons while maintaining the safety of all our Church family members.

Correspondence will be sent out at the start of September about Sunday School. Stay tuned!

For Youth at Trinity

Trinity youth are a vital and active part of Trinity United Church. Activities and events happen throughout the year. Please look for information about upcoming activities and events on our website or our facebook page. Many high school aged youth choose to earn their volunteer hours by helping out in the Sunday School or other Trinity ministries. For more information contact Lisa: blais.trinity@gmail.com or phone 474-3310.

Trinity Youth Group – led by Sandra Brownlee

Trinity youth, and occasionally youth from other area churches meet throughout the year. We participate in a variety of fun activities with a goal towards building community with other Christian youth. We are looking at re-launching the Youth Group here at Trinity. All youth in Grade 7 and up are invited to a Games Social on Sunday September 26th. We will have an opportunity for ice breakers and some planning for future events.

Holy Grounds

At various times throughout the year, youth will gather Sundays after church for Coffee (or Hot Chocolate) and treats for meaningful discussion and activities – sometimes around a seasonal theme and sometimes just because. An Advent session is being planned – more info to follow.

The Mustard Seed Players

For young people who are interested in theatre. We welcome actors, singers, dancers, stage hands, musicians, those interested in lighting, sound, props or costumes to join our troupe anytime. We are eagerly anticipating an exciting new musical sometime in 2022. Please speak with Darlene Laferriere, or Lisa Blais for more information.

Dial for Hope

Don't forget our Dial for Hope ministry. This service has proven to be very successful in providing comfort and encouragement for many who have been feeling a little "down" particularly because of the on-going Covid19 pandemic.

You can call toll-free (249) 506 0377 any time and you can hear an encouraging message from a different Trinity leader, perhaps a poem or story, a prayer or a thoughtful meditation. And please, share the "Dial for Hope" number with any friends that you feel may need a hopeful word.

...Roof Fundraising

We are very close to reaching our goal for the roof fundraising project. The committee have some fun events planned for the fall, including an online cooking class, an art sale and a new cookbook, just in time for Christmas.

Please support our fundraising efforts.

Darlene Laferriere
Fundraising Committee

Apple Pies

We are optimistic that we will be able resume the apple pie project in the fall with some modifications. We will monitor the Health Unit recommendations in September for indoor gathering size, and other safety protocols. We may have smaller groups of volunteers, make fewer pies and stretch the time period.

Please stay tuned as we will not make these decisions until the beginning of September. If you have any questions, call me at 705-474-7847.

Darlene Laferriere
The Pie Lady

Upcoming Dates: Get them on your Calendar!

(All dates and events listed are presuming Health Unit permission to gather. The Trinity Board encourages you to undertake every recommended precaution to protect the vulnerable-- including double vaccination)

Sunday September 12th: **Rally Day Service**, plus **Afternoon Picnic** (See Poster)

Tuesday September 21st: next Trinity Board Meeting, 7pm

Sunday September 26th: **Saint Francis Sunday** (*you're welcome to bring a furry friend or animal memento to church!*) Also: Orange Shirt Sunday

Sunday October 3rd: World - Wide **Communion** Sunday.

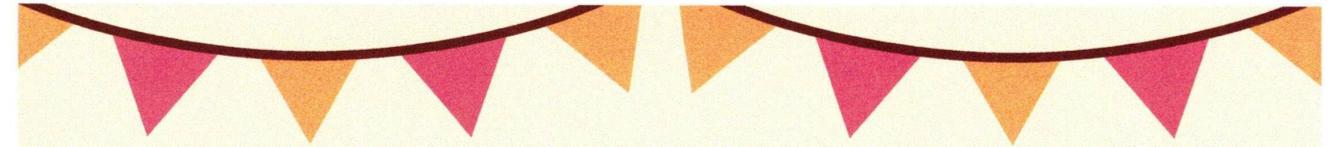
Sunday October 10th: **Thanksgiving and Baptism Sunday** (*families interested in baptism on this Sunday should be in touch with the Trinity office ASAP!*)

Sunday October 31st: Feel free to wear your **Hallowe'en** costume to church

Sunday November 7th: **Remembrance Sunday and Memorial Sunday for friends and family lost during the pandemic**

Sunday November 21st: AOTS Sunday

Sunday November 28th: First Sunday in Advent. **Communion Service**

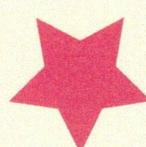


CELEBRATING OUR GROWING CHURCH FAMILY



Rallyback!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH
2:00-5:00 PM
CAMP TILICUM



.....

Our Rallyback picnic will include games, afternoon vespers and a special baby shower component for Trinity members Kawai and Julie, who are expecting a baby in November!



This year we will not be having our usual potluck dinner but you are welcome to bring your own snacks if you wish. We will supply ice cream bars!

For directions and information contact Lisa at blais.trinity@gmail.com

To contribute to a Baby Shower gift, please be in touch with Cassie Bott-Baxter at cassiebott@gmail.com or 705-845-1894.