

Trinity United Church 2023 Annual Report

Trinity's Mission Statement

God is calling Trinity United Church to:

*"Reach out and serve the wider community and the world;
To nurture spirituality in people of all ages; and
To be a safe, open, welcoming and inclusive community of faith."*



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

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tel. 705-474-3310 email trinitynorthbay@gmail.com
website www.trinitynorthbay.ca
Youtube www.youtube.com/c/trinitynorthbay

STAFF 2021

Minister..... Rev. Dr. Ted Harrison
Minister Emerita Rev. Kathleen McCallum
Designated Lay Minister..... Lisa Blais
Minister of Music Betty Farris
Office Administrator..... Wanda Gleason
Administrative Assistant..... Jean Mitchell
Treasurer Michelina Beam
Night Reception Maurice Laporte
Custodian Don Hickey

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Minister's Report
"Building our Future Village"

Upon entering the village, the exhausted sojourner asked the gatekeeper for directions to their place of restoration: **"My soul is weary,"** said the sojourner, **"I need the place where I can be myself: honest about my many weaknesses. I need the place where I will find community: other honest human beings with whom I will seek joy and wholeness, direction and hope. Where we can sing together, and show human kindness to one another"**

The gatekeeper directs the sojourner: *two blocks south, turn right.*

"Thank you," says the sojourner, **"Does this church have a steeple by which to recognize it?"**

"Church?" stammers the baffled gatekeeper, **"Why, I thought you were looking for the village pub!"**

That illustration isn't intended to criticize where some people might find a sense of community! It is instead meant to highlight our absolute universal human need for sustaining life-giving community. Community as a source of health, bonding, identity and compassion. And while (Thank Heavens!) genuine community certainly can be found in bars and social associations, in sports teams and fan clubs and recovery groups-- isn't it essential to genuine Christian fellowship?

(A side thought: Perhaps that village gatekeeper didn't recommend the church, because he hadn't found acceptance there? Or maybe among all his options, no one had suggested to him what the church had to offer?)

In future years, this 2023 Annual Report will tell some of the story of how our Church attempted to live up to our calling-- how we always stretched and tweaked to be a place of wide-armed welcome, of companionship and nourishment along life's trying sojourn. *Because of course that's what Jesus offers us, and what we in turn must offer to the world God loves!*

That opening story of the unnamed village, the unspecified sojourner and gatekeeper sound like something out of a generic medieval past. But in OUR future, they will all have specific names, identities, talents and needs: companions we have yet to welcome, partnerships to embrace, resources to cultivate, mistakes to forgive, songs as-yet unsung. As always, we build this village, together.

Faith Forward! See you Sunday,



Faith Formation and Outreach Minister's Report
2023 Annual Report

At Trinity, God is present every day of the week – not just Sunday mornings. As you flip through the pages of this report you will get a snapshot of some of the extraordinary people who make up the Trinity community. Each of these pictures has a story to tell – of the care, dedication, faithfulness and talents of our wonderful church family. Whether we are pie making, offering musical talents in worship, learning about God and our church family in Sunday School, preparing sandwiches and squares, making coffee, welcoming a stranger, washing dishes, teaching Sunday School, organizing or participating in dramatic events, visiting people, knitting prayer shawls, gathering together for prayer or bible study, volunteering on the Board, ushering, greeting, leading a call to worship or reading scripture, packing Christmas gifts for those in need, feeding the hungry – we are weaving together the narrative of what it means to be part of the Trinity family, a family that I am so very grateful to be a part of.

This past year has been exciting, fulfilling and incredibly busy – and thank God for that! Some of the highlights for me were:

- Collaborating with Marcel MacDonald and our summer students Abigail Sanders, Andrew Whitehead and Nick Babbin in creating another very successful Vacation Bible Camp program
- Teaming up with Darlene Laferriere and the Mustard Seed crew in bringing bible stories to life through drama (including the Christmas Pageant)
- Working with the Christian Education and Outreach Committee in visioning to provide programming and activities that appeal to all ages
- Supporting Trinity's Board and the Faith Forward Team to serve the needs and vision of our Congregation
- Developing resources and providing support to the region as Team Lead of the Right Relations Resource Team
- Working with a dynamic and energetic inter-generational team in bringing a lively, thought provoking and successful Festival of Faith event to our Region
- Offering staff support to many groups, events and activities that keep Trinity busy
- And of course, working with the dedicated, faithful, caring Staff Team

I thank each of you for your support and dedication throughout the year and for continuing to make Trinity a welcoming and busy place for people to connect with one another in faith, friendship and God's work in our world.

May God's grace and love be with you this and every year.

Respectfully, Lisa Blais – Faith Formation and Outreach

Minister of Music's Report

The Trinity Senior Choir has enjoyed providing music on a regular basis for weekly worship services and various other special church events during 2023.

The Senior Choir welcomed new members and additional choristers for some special occasions during the year. The choir roster now numbers 33!

We are grateful to the following Trinity and community instrumentalists who have enriched our music on several occasions, both individually and/or members of music ensembles: Brenda McLay, Melissa Pajunen - piano and organ; Laura Farris Einarson – flute; Anne Smith - flute, Lisa Fettes - clarinet; Jennifer Hedican, Kerrie Blaise - violin; Marcel Macdonald, Rowan Macdonald, Diana Reed, & Victoria Wickett – trumpet; Doug Nichol – french horn; Kevin Smith, Diana Reed, Joanne Bernier - trombone; Heather Curtis, Bob Jackson – euphonium; Linda McCarthy, Fay Jackson – alto and tenor sax, respectively; Rob Farris, Gord Roberts - tuba; Marcel Macdonald – guitar; Chris Clarke, Katie Fettes, Rowan Macdonald, Peggy Millar, Judy Smith, Heather Reid, Matthew Whitehead – percussion; Bob Cook, Rob Sanders – pipes.

The highlight of our choir Christmas season was the presentation on Sunday, December 17, of a beautiful cantata, “Love”, by Joel Raney. A special treat for all of us was the addition of a nine member youth choir, who sang alone, and with our adult choir. This special music touched many lives. It was supported by 10 instrumentalists: The choirs wish to thank Rev. Ted, for his excellent narration in the cantata. (the Cantata can be seen again on the You Tube service for that date.)

Sadly, in November, we said goodbye to long-time members Sandy and Don Haslam, who moved to St. Catharines to be closer to their family. They are greatly missed and will be remembered always. Trillium United Church is delighted to welcome Don to their bass section!

We are pleased to welcome three new choir members: Heather Reid, Barb Westerlund, sopranos, and Spencer Zajac, bass, and welcome back Jim Dickson, bass.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Farris, Minister of Music

Chairperson's Report

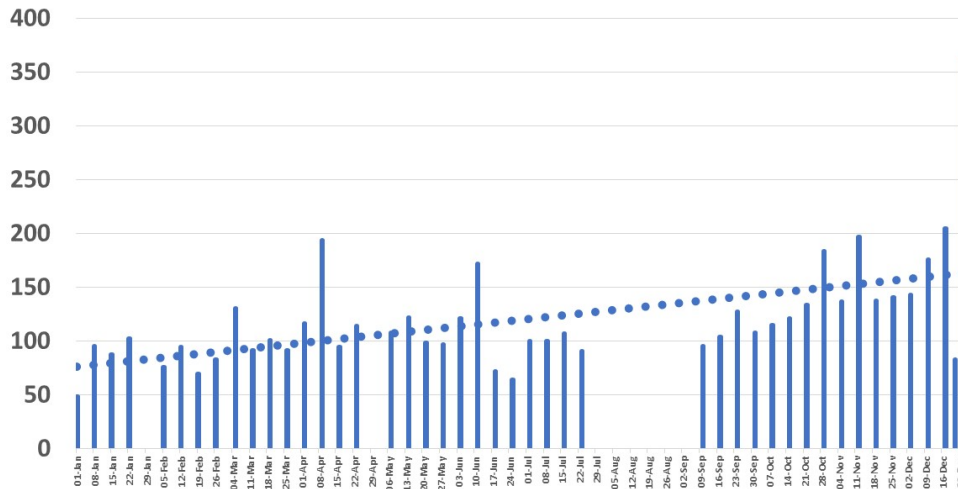
‘My name is Glenn Brophey and for those of you that have been not been keeping track, I have been the Chairperson of your Board since last March when I took over from Cindy Brownlee. I have another year in this role. We are thrilled to welcome Amanda Silk as our new Vice-Chair at our AGM, and look forward to her stepping into the Chair's seat a year from now. I feel truly blessed to have these two very capable people helping me in this role and I believe Trinity is incredibly fortunate to have these engaged and talented leaders in place for the foreseeable future.

This past year has been one of recovery and renewal and incredible energy. Unfortunately, these happy events have been punctuated by some heart-wrenching losses as cherished members of Trinity have passed on. These losses remind us of our mortality and how important it is that we seize the day to serve God while we can.

On a happier note, our community seems to be in quite a good place as we recover from the tough times of Covid lockdowns and are beginning to see the fruits of our FF2030 labours. A number of groups continue to organically operate and pull off many great events throughout the year. For example, our vacation bible camp had a very successful year. Our Stewardship and Finance committee has done some outstanding work pulling together a narrative budget to help us understand our numbers better (did you know their October '23 report said we Trinity folks provided 10,593 volunteer hours last year?) and they have put on and are planning several more lunch and learn sessions to serve the elders in our community. In terms of events, this past Christmas, we were very busy with many events, such as the cantata, the children's Christmas pageant, Christmas bag outreach, UCW tea and bazaar, The J.O.Y. band, the Rapport concert, Dicken's dramatic readings and multiple special worship services.

Did you know that for example that on Christmas Eve, we counted over 340 people in Trinity between the morning and the evening services, and, that our Dicken's reading raised over \$8000.00 for the Gathering Place even after we had to turn folks away at the door as we were sold out? We certainly appear to be firmly on the road to recovery as the warmth and welcome of our Trinity community can be seen and felt everywhere. Check out this graph describing in-person Sunday service attendance during 2023. It appears we are making solid progress and that renewal seems to be happening as no matter who they are, or who they love, we continue to welcome more people into our Trinity community.

Trinity Service Attendance



We have a wonderful staff and ministry team who have moved seamlessly from the challenges presented by the pandemic to this new mode where exciting new things are happening. We are all grateful to see these folks appearing to be energized by the new growth and we see their continued ministering to us as concrete expressions of the beauty and love embodied in our faith.

Thanks again to all of you for your support for our work at the board. We aim to serve your needs to the best of our abilities. And we are particularly heartened that when we ask for your help, Trinity people step up, Look out 2024, here we come!!

Glenn Brophey

Faith Forward 2030 Update

Last year at this time we reported that we were getting close to issuing our first report to the congregation on the FF2030 project. Shortly thereafter the report was released, and we had an after-service luncheon to discuss the information with the congregation. Out of that we were thrilled that 11 members of our community volunteered to work towards the principal FF2030 goals of congregation renewal and establishing a long-term plan for our building needs. These 11 formed two sub-committees and we have now increased in number as more folks are getting involved in the various initiatives. We are very grateful for all the support for this initiative that has stepped up to address our FF2030 objectives.



A lot has happened since then. The Faith Forward renewal team have chosen to try to attract new or returning members in the 25-45 age group, principally by increasing our on-line footprint through social media, digital calendars and beginning work to revamp our website. In addition, we are very lucky that one of our choir members, Heather McKercher has been working very hard to publicize our Trinity happenings through our local media. We're thrilled to see our 'name in lights' this way as often as possible, so if any of you have a Trinity story to tell that you think would help us raise our profile, please speak to Heather or Rev. Ted for ideas on how we can get our story out.

In terms of the next work of the renewal committee, the website redesign should be well underway by the time you are reading this and work is ongoing to increase our social media presence. The committee also launched a Trinity-specific survey to find out what 25-45 year olds are looking for to find their spiritual connection or church community. We will be considering these results and the findings from other renewed churches as we develop our future messaging strategies and plans for new programs. In short, we have made some important progress, but we also have some important decisions ahead of us before we can make these new methods of communicating part of a 'new normal' for Trinity.

The other focus of the FF2030 work is oriented toward securing our long-term plan for our building. The Faith Forward Building sub-committee has been focusing on four main initiatives. One – Structural analysis of this big beautiful old building. The board has approved the hiring of a structural engineer and construction contractor to have a good hard look at our building. We want a realistic look at the future of our beautiful

old building so we can plan for our Trinity community to have a safe place to worship and play until 2030 and beyond.

This will lead to our second initiative - examining the bricks. Once we have a solid idea about our building from our structural analysis, we can then move onto an in-depth investigation into the bricks on the exterior of the building.

The third initiative is an energy audit through Green Economy North. Energy usage data was collected, and a “Greenhouse Gas Initial Inventory Report” was received in December. The next step is a physical review of the building to create a report that will highlight areas of improvement and initiatives to help us save energy. Working with the United Church of Canada’s Faithful Footprints program, we can access some funding grants to help improve the energy efficiency of this big beautiful old building.

And the fourth initiative involves reviewing and analyzing the usage of our building. Who uses it, when and in which spaces? We are working to identify ways to increase the rental opportunities by maximizing the spaces we have available to us, streamlining the process involved in renting those spaces and then working with the renewal team to promote the use of our church spaces.

The work of the FF2030 renewal committee over the next year is likely to result in some ‘new normal’ activities becoming established. It’s entirely likely that some of these new activities will need some ongoing leadership so please consider how you might be able to help as we try new programs and keep other existing programs energized and led with intent to serve others in the Trinity way.

On the building side, the work we do this year is bound to lead a project that will carry on throughout 2025 to see it completed. Taking the time to thoroughly investigate where we are today will help us prioritize and plan for our future.

These are exciting times and while a bit nerve-racking we are heartened by what appears to be the beginning of the fruits of our efforts. We see growth happening throughout Trinity and we get the sense from all of you that you share in our excitement for the future as we make plans to see that Trinity’s good works continue to 2030 and beyond.

Cindy Brownlee and Glenn Brophey

United Community Faith Network - UCFuN Local United Church Work Group

In the fall of 2022, two lay leaders representing the board or council from each of the North Bay and area United Churches gathered to build stronger connections, get to know each other better, plan for the future, and build community. This group representing Trinity, St. Andrews North Bay, Emmanuel, Omond and Carmichael has been meeting quarterly.

Shared worship services began in January 2023 when we joined together at Emmanuel United Church for our first ‘5 th Sunday of the month’ shared worship service. This group, with the support of each congregation has facilitated the 5 th Sunday of the month shared worship service where we all close our doors and worship together united, at one United Church. Usually with joint choirs, good food and great fellowship. St Andrews North Bay hosted the 5 th Sunday in April 2023, Carmichael hosted a lovely outdoor service in July, Trinity in October and Omond in December. There are plans to continue with these shared services for the 5 th Sundays in 2024.

This group coordinated the team that assembled and distribution over 1000 candy cane reindeer at the downtown Christmas walk. An opportunity for the North Bay United Churches to work together to wish the citizens of North Bay a Merry Christmas.

As we continue to meet we are working together to ensure a vibrant United Church presence in North Bay for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Brownlee and Glenn Brophey



Canadian Shield Regional Council (CRSC 2023)

A regional council is a decision-making body responsible to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight. The CSRC is one of 16 regions spread across Canada. It consists of the pastoral charges in the former Manitou Conference, Algoma Presbytery and those in the Eastern Time Zone of the former Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conference. We in Manitou Conference thought we had a large area but now we are really challenged to figure out how to be a cohesive group within a bigger area.

Membership consists of all ministry personnel both active and retired in the region plus lay representatives from each Community of Faith. Lay membership is based on the number of resident members in the Community of Faith. Trinity has 2 representatives and does qualify for 4 representatives. Don Haslam and Janice Brownlee are the lay representatives from Trinity. In November Don Haslam resigned from this role as he and his wife Sandy relocated to southern Ontario. We are in need of new representatives. If you would be interested in learning more about this role, please speak to Janice and she will be happy to describe what the work entails. I would encourage you to give this need serious thought. It is a rewarding role and you develop relationships with other UC folks from our region.

The CSRC's governance structure consists of an Executive, a Pastoral Relations Commission (Rev. Ted is a member of this commission) and a Support to Communities of Faith Commission. There are resource teams for Right Relations (Lisa Blais is team lead), Mission Grants, Finance, Property (Rev Gord Roberts is team lead), Affirming, Youth and Young Adult. Please refer to the website at canadianshielddrc.ca for more information on the structure, function and membership of the Resource Teams. New members are always being sought.

Canadian Shield RC shares resources with Shining Waters RC. Shining Waters RC is just to the south of us and includes Toronto. Rev Peter Hartmans is the Executive Minister for both regional councils. Administrative staff are shared by both and there are plans for joint learning events and other opportunities to gather and work together.

The first Festival of Faith of the new region occurred in June, 2023. The event was held here at Canadore College and was attended by individuals from across the region and also from Shining Waters. The event was well attended. It was a wonderful weekend of music, speakers, workshops and culminated with a worship service at Trinity on Sunday morning. The hope is that this will become a semi regular event. The next one is set for 2025 in Sudbury and this time will be in partnership with Shining Waters RC. Both regional councils are represented on the planning committee.

The 2023 Annual Meeting occurred by ZOOM in November 2023. The meeting included discussion and vote on remit 1. This remit establishes an autonomous National indigenous Organization within the governance structure of the United Church. At the end of this meeting Rev Nancy Ferguson from Sault Ste Marie was installed as chair of the RC for a 2 year term. Detailed information about the meeting can be found on the regional council website. The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for May, 2024. It will be an in person meeting and held in Sault Ste Marie.

ZOOM meetings will continue to be an important part of our way of connecting given the size of our region. We are still learning how to do our work in this new structure and it is important that we continue to evaluate how we are doing and how we can improve the way we do our work.

Information about the region, its work and upcoming events are available on the Website canadianshielddrc.ca.

Submitted by Janice Brownlee

2023
IN MEMORIAM
Members and Friends of Trinity

Elsie Soule	January 3, 2023
Trudy Waldie*	January 3, 2023
Rosalynd Paterson	January 15, 2023
Ron Gilbert*	February 13, 2023
Stanley Russell	January 6, 2023
Russell Gardner	February 27, 2023
Edna Irwin	June 12, 2023
Kimberly Sheremeta	June 15, 2023
Jean Landrie	June 29, 2023
Alvin Moyer	July 22, 2023
Frank George	August 13, 2023
Ann Cann	August 22, 2023
Joy Eleanor Baxter*	September 21, 2023
Elizabeth Anne Riddell*	October 13, 2023
Merle Charles Jessup	October 15, 2023
Harry Whalley	October 15, 2023
Brenda Holbein	November 20, 2023
Jean Rideout	December 14, 2023
Eileen Taylor	December 21, 2023
Marion Bailey*	December 18, 2023
Audrey Cozac	December 28, 2023

*"Friends of Trinity," although beloved, were not technically members of Trinity. Not all were buried out of Trinity.

BAPTISMS

Ava Marie Chatelain	May 14, 2023
Leeland Lorne Chatelain	May 14, 2023
Madison Dianne Chatelain	May 14, 2023
Nicholas Marc Hebert	May 14, 2023
Naomi Norah Bott-Baxter	October 8, 2023
Felix Reign Jimenez	October 8, 2023
Christian Carlos Jimenez	October 8, 2023

STATISTICS

Resident and non-resident membership as of December 31, 2022	471
Received by profession of faith	5
Received by transfer	0
Total received in 2022	5
Members removed by death	9
Removed by session	0
Removed by unknown residency	0
Removed by transfer	1
Total Removed in 2022	10
Net	
Resident and non-resident membership as of December 31, 2023	466
Non-Resident 123 Resident 343	

MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS

COMPARATIVE FIGURES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	4	0	4	1	8
Marriages	6	0	1	1	1
Funerals	17	9	23	16	14

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2023

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity United Church held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 with 49 persons participating.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Cindy Brownlee at 1:00 pm.

"Trinity United Church acknowledges that we are meeting on aboriginal land that has been inhabited by Indigenous people from the beginning. As settlers, we are grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land – for thousands of years. In particular, we gather on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation Anishinaabe. This territory is covered by the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850.

WORSHIP: Rev Ted led us in the gathering worship.

APPOINTMENT of RECORDING SECRETARY:

MOTION: Don Haslam/Eunice Laporte moved that Janice Brownlee be appointed the Recording Secretary for the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity United Church, North Bay.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF MEETING CHAIR:

MOTION: Bob Cook/Cassie Bott-Baxter moved that Cindy Brownlee be appointed as meeting chair for the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity United Church, North Bay.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP/VOTING PRIVILEGES:

MOTION: Richard Smith/Diane Cook moved that Adherents of Trinity United Church, North Bay, be granted corresponding membership and the privilege to vote on temporal (non-spiritual/non worship) matters.

CARRIED

IN MEMORIAM:

Rev. Ted Harrison read the names of members and friends (page 5 of the Annual

Report) who passed away during 2022 and following a moment of silence he led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

MOTION: John Hafidson/Betty Farris moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE March 6, 2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Correction to the minutes. Bonnie Rae Bailey was referred to as Bonnie Rae Brownlee.

MOTION: Moe Laporte/Rae Brownlee moved that the minutes (page 6,7,8,9 of the Annual Report) of the March 6, 2022 annual congregational meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

CHEQUE SIGNING AND AUTHORIZATION:

MOTION: Rick Shaver/Marlene Little moved that in accordance with our Constitution (3.0, 7.2, and 9.0) and Bylaw (5.0) and following the procedure recommended by Royal Bank and best practice requiring two (2) signatures to authorize cheques, we designate the following five (5) people to have signing authority on our bank accounts. Any 3 persons holding a position of Officer of the Church – Chair, Vice-Chair, Past-Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, Envelope Secretary, Chair of the Trustees.

CARRIED

MOTION: Gladys Banks-Bryer/Sandra Rozciki moved that in accordance with our Constitution (3.0, 7.2) we designate the following two (2) people to have signing authority on our investment accounts: Chair of the Trustees, Member of the Board of Trustees.

CARRIED

BUILDING AND GROUNDS OVERVIEW

Bob Cook reported

- Work is continuing to repair the brick façade of the church. Some possible solutions are being explored.
- Investigating the possibility of accessing a United Church grant aimed at reducing our carbon footprint.

NEW BUSINESS

Faith Forward 2030

Glenn Brophrey reported

- Status report – executive summary and full report – print copies available and also posted on the website
- Building and demographic issues identified
- Major directions will be chosen by consensus
- Embrace Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice
- Task force reaching out for ideas
- Once a direction is decided, describe that vision, hang onto it throughout implementation

REPORTS for the YEAR 2022

YEAR IN REVIEW

Lisa Blais (DLM) presented a photo montage of happenings at Trinity and of its members over the year of 2022.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Brad Stenning and Rick Shaver reported 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.

MOTION: Rick Shaver/Don Haslam moved that the Reviewers' report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT of REVIEWERS for the Year 2023

MOTION: Doug Bott-Baxter/Glenn Brophrey moved that the Reviewers for 2023 be Brad Stenning and Rick Shaver.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

John Hafidson reviewed the financial summary report for 2022. Total income of \$387,134 and expenses of \$391,928 leaving us with a deficit of \$4,794. He expressed thanks to the amazing Trinity family 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 were met. The floor was opened for comments and questions.

PROPOSED BUDGET for 2023:

A summary of the proposed budget 2023 was presented by Treasurer Michelina Beam. Income for 2023 was estimated at \$393,300 and expenses at \$410,224 leaving a deficit of \$16,924. The United Church assessment is around \$15,700. There is \$29,000 budgeted for the ceiling repair (this is the ceiling in the hallway, nursery and offices), brick repair and camera, streaming equipment. The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

MOTION: John Hafidson/Bob Cook moved that the Financial Summary Report for 2022 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION: John Hafidson/Moe Laporte moved that the proposed budget for 2023 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Cindy Brownlee presented the report.

The following individuals have completed their terms and are retiring from the board: Tony dePencier

Jean Rideout

Claudette Brown

Stephen Davis

Barb Roberts

The executive

Chair: Glenn Brophey

Vice-Chair: vacant

Past-Chair: Cindy Brownlee

Secretary: Janice Brownlee

Member at Large: Bill Brownlee

New committee members for 2023

Worship

Heather McKercher

Karen Brophey

Building and Grounds

Earl Foisy

Communication & Technology

Michael Miller

Rich McCallum

The following members are renewing for another term

Trustees
Kirk Elliott

Ministry and Personnel
Bryan Boothe

Pastoral Care and Visiting
Richard Smith
Pat Sadler

Worship
Chris For

Past Chair/Christian Education and Outreach
Cindy Brownlee

Committee Chairs for 2023

Worship – Bonnie Rae Bailey
Finance/Stewardship – John Haflidson
Pastoral Care/Visiting – Richard Smith
Ministry & Personnel – Brad Stenning, Don Haslam
Communication & Technology – John Roberts
CEO – Sue Miller, Diane Cook
Building & Grounds – Bob Cook
Trustees – Kirk Elliott
CSRC – Janice Brownlee, Don Haslam

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

MOTION: Noreen Brewer/Diane Cook moved that the nominations be declared closed.

CARRIED

MOTION: Gladys Banks-Bryer/Doug Bott-Baxter moved that the nominations of members (as presented) be approved as the Board of Trinity United Church for 2023.

CARRIED

MOTION: Glenn Brophey/Bonnie Rae Bailey moved that letters of appreciation be sent by the recording secretary on behalf of the Board to its retiring members.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION OF NEW HONOURARY ELDERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The following were presented
Bill and Ann Clark

Tony and Claudette dePencier

MOTION: Moe Laporte/Betty Farris moved that it is recommended that the above individuals be added to list of Honourary Elders for Trinity United Church.

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: John Hafidson/Don Haslam moved the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted and the Nominating Committee be dissolved with thanks.

CARRIED

REMAINDER OF ANNUAL REPORT 2022:

Appreciation was expressed to Ross Brewer for putting the report together.

MOTION: Moved by Rob Brownlee/Richard Smith that the TUC Annual Report 2022 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

THANK YOU

Cindy Brownlee expressed appreciation to everyone for their contributions to making Trinity the welcoming, warm and amazing place it is.

INSTALLATION of CHAIRPERSON:

Rev Ted installed Glenn Brophay as chairperson of the congregation and the Official Board for the ensuing year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having completed the business before us Glenn Brophay asked for a motion of adjournment. Brad Stenning moved the adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was closed with Rev. Ted offering a benediction.

.....
Recording Secretary

.....
Chairperson

Building and Grounds Report

Many thanks go out to the Building and Grounds team who ensure our building is cared for and safe for all to use.

You may have noticed that we did not proceed with any brickwork this past summer. The primary reason for this was that we are working closely with the Faith Forward 2030 building sub-committee to explore best options to reface the building. All options are costly, so we want to ensure we make the right choice.

Not working on the bricks does not mean that our team was lacking in projects. Along with regular maintenance we continued to work on special one-off tasks. Many of these were brought forward by the congregation to a B&G member. Once alerted, work was prioritized and completed as soon as possible.

Some work around the church that you may have noticed includes: painting of the McIntyre entrance and administration office (it had been 30+ years since it was last done), replacing fixtures and lights to LED as they burn out, repairing the stove and caulking windows to decrease heat loss.

Some significant expenditures were made this past year in the way of contracts. First was contracting with a firm who ensures that our boiler system is treated with the right chemicals. Regular testing now occurs and this will hopefully prolong the service life of system.

Our second major contract this past year was for an energy audit and review. Completing an energy audit is part of the requirements to receive a United Church grant under the Faithful Footprints program where we can receive up to \$20,000 in grant money buy matching 1/3 of the total claimed amount. Upgrades must go towards decreasing our carbon footprint. As part of the audit, we found that 98% of our energy costs are spent in natural gas or 57 tonnes of CO₂e in 2022. (This will be our baseline moving forward). Our energy audit has provided some suggestions on how we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We will be working on a plan to address these over the next year to ensure we maximize the grant funds.

Bob Cook
Chair, Building and Grounds

Christian Education & Outreach Report

The Christian Education and Outreach Committee at Trinity United Church is responsible for coordinating and overseeing programs for children, youth, and adults. We support the work of our Food Shelf ministries through special offerings such as Lent, Thanksgiving, and White Gift Sunday.

Maintain, coordinate and have general oversight of a vibrant multifaceted Christian Education program for the Congregation

Thank you to the many volunteers who facilitated our programs in 2023, such as Trinity Food Shelf, Infant Food Bank, Sunday School, Trinity Families, Mustard Seed, Vacation Bible Camp, Messy Church and Rally Back Picnic.

Reports from the Sunday School, Youth Group, Vacation Bible Camp, and Mustard Seed can be found later in this report.

Spirit Point 2023 was a resounding success and had been very much missed during the COVID lockdowns. Thank you to the AOTS who provided for their generous donation to help offset the costs for the weekend.

Investigate and promote ways in which the Congregation may serve the local community.

Trinity operates a Monday Food Shelf program and a Wednesday Infant Food Shelf program. Reports for both of these programs can be found later in this report.

Anne Smith and Sue Miller represent Trinity on the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless of North Bay. Along with members from a number of other faith communities throughout the area who have joined together to address the immediate needs of the homeless (see individual report).

With the support from Trinity Youth, we provide over 150 Christmas gift bags for those who might otherwise not receive the joy of getting a gift at Christmas. The Christmas Bag Outreach program provided gifts to a variety of local agencies.

Promote the Lenten, Thanksgiving, White Gift, and the Trinity Food Shelf offerings

We thank the congregation for their generous donations to these programs throughout the year. Our Food Shelf programs operate solely on donations from the Trinity congregation and wider community. The White Gift program helped provide over 150 gifts in our community.

Promote the membership of the Church by Profession of Faith

There was no membership class offered this year. We are looking at 2024. If you are interested in being received into membership at Trinity United Church later this year, please be in touch with Rev. Ted, Lisa Blais or the Church office.

Identify issues of social justice in the community in which the Congregation might be involved

Please see the report from Anne Smith and Sue Miller on the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless of North Bay.

Trinity United Church is blessed with these volunteers who are part of the Christian Education and Outreach Committee, Linsey Mutch, Amanda Silk, Anne Smith, Cindy Brownlee, Sandra Brownlee, Recording Secretary Caroline Harrison, Sunday School Superintendent Marcel MacDonald, Co-Chairs Diane Cook and Sue Miller, and supported by Lisa Blais, our Faith Formation and Outreach Minister.

Respectfully submitted,
Co-Chairs Sue Miller & Diane Cook

Communications & Technology Report

Thank you to Ross for keeping us all up-to-date with important updates and upcoming events by publishing our Advent, Spring and Fall Newsletters and the Annual Report. Ross also maintains the “Wayside Pulpit” (*the sign on the front of the church*). And thank you to everyone who contributed content.

Trinity continued to livestream our services, and to make the recordings available on YouTube and on Cogeco’s YourTV. The total “views” on our YouTube channel in 2023 was down a bit from the 2022 figure, which you might recall was down from 2021. This decline is a good thing, and I think you’ll find elsewhere in this Annual Report that there has been an increase in the number of you worshipping with us in-person on Sundays.

We will continue to make our services available to those of you who watch from your homes. Our Pastoral Care & Visiting Committee does a great job of visiting those of you who are local, and we’ve been exploring ways to better connect with our more remote viewers. Watch for our “shout-outs” and, if we don’t have your name, please let us know that you’re a regular viewer by contacting our office.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the live streaming and recording; including Andrew, Michael, Marcel, Rich, Rob B and Lisa. Note though that a couple of us are off to university next year so if there are any of you interested in joining our “tech team” please get in touch with me.

Respectively submitted by:
John Roberts,
Communications & Technology Committee Chair

Finance & Stewardship Report

Our preliminary 2023 financial report shows annual Income of \$387,785. Thank you to all the people who donated or contributed to generate this income. Your contributions are much appreciated!

Total income was 1% below budget but 2% greater than last year. Offerings of \$282,234 accounted for 73% of total income and was 2% below budget. Fundraising income was \$27,175 while building rentals accounted for \$13,620.

Thank you to the Trinity groups - AOTS, UCW, and Joy Band - for your continuing donations and dedication to our church community. Total expenses of \$412,535 were .5% greater than budget even with the decision not to spend a budgeted amount of \$29,000 on building brick work until further assessments are carried out. Annual expenses were 4.5% higher than in 2022, with notable increases for Personnel, Property, the Food Shelf and Infant Food Shelf.

Comparing total 2023 income and expenses resulted in a deficit of \$24,750. This is a substantial reduction of the deficit from the over \$50,000 reported several months ago and we would like to acknowledge the tremendous generosity of Trinity folks toward the end of the year. THANK YOU!!

On a positive note, we received a grant from the federal government in the form of loan forgiveness of \$20,000 as we met the repayment deadline for the Canadian Emergency Business Account loan. This grant has brought our in-year deficit down to \$4,750. Please note that this amount and the above figures may change slightly after year-end adjustments by Treasurer Michelina and final evaluations by our auditors.

Several members of the committee contributed to the Fall Stewardship Initiative, which is reported on elsewhere in this Annual Report.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee meets monthly to carry out the functions outlined in the Church By-Laws. Members in 2023 were: Bill Brownlee, Michelina Beam, Natalya Brown, John Haflidson, Gordon Roberts and Brenda Holbein. We were greatly saddened when Brenda passed away in November. Our treasurer is Michelina Beam and our envelope and Par Administrator is Wanda Gleason.

Respectfully submitted by John Haflidson, Committee Chair.

Stewardship

Trinity is being served by an enthusiastic Stewardship team that was reinvigorated in March of 2023 when Rev Ted, John Haflidson and Cindy Brownlee participated in **Called to be the Church: Stewardship Best Practices** lead by Melody Duncanson-Hales. This training included four-sessions totalling more than 8 hours that left the team filled with energy and great ideas. Trinity received a Stewardship Analysis Report that contained some fascinating and inspiring information. This team was later joined by Natalya Brown.



Some lessons learned during the stewardship training included;

- **Stewardship vs Fundraising**

Fundraising is about trying to get a certain amount of money from people for a specific task or project or focus on budgets. Although fundraising has its purposes, it can feel never-ending and cause us to focus too much on 'balancing the books' for its own sake.

Stewardship is Discipleship. Giving that continues to position generosity and stewardship as key spiritual practices for disciples of Jesus, calling us to live all aspects of our life in the light of faith in Jesus.

- Focusing on **our mission**: using specific inspiring examples of how we're changing the world. In the charity world they call this building your "case for support." In other words, start with your mission and purpose, not with paying your bills or budget realities. "Claim your mission!"
- The vital importance of **thanking givers**. We are very thankful for our church family who continuously give of their times, talents and treasure!

The stewardship team created "When is a pie more than a pie?" labels for our Apple Pie project to celebrate our mission by sharing some of the ways purchasing an apple pie supports life at Trinity. Contributing to building leaders, supporting outreach, building community, celebrating music and more.

The Stewardship team brought you the gratitude lunch in October to thank you for all you do and to share a package that included our narrative budget - a visual opportunity to see our gifts of time and money and where they go and what they do! Wow, Trinity is an amazing place. In 2022, the gifts of money to our mission includes \$410,222 representing 37% Outreach, 31% Worship, 20% faith formation and 12% Pastoral Care. The gifts of time to our mission were equally as impressive with a total of 10,593 hours representing 40% Worship, 27% Outreach, 20% Faith Formation and 12% Pastoral Care. The package also included a letter from Ted, a financial giving's step chart and a response card. We were please to receive response cards from 55 families. People who have committed to continue or increase their gifts of time and/or treasure to Trinity.

Your Stewardship team has more to come!

John Haflidson, Cindy Brownlee, Rev. Ted Harrison, Natalya Brown and Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales.

Ministry & Personnel Report

The Ministry and Personnel Committee extends a thank you to Don Haslam, our previous Co-Chair of M&P for his dedication to being there for our Trinity staff.

We are fortunate at Trinity to have a wonderful cohesive staff. They help to make our church a welcoming place in so many ways.

Our committee is there to advocate for the staff and act as a liaison with the congregation.

Brad Stenning, M&P Chair.

Pastoral Care and Visiting Report

The Pastoral Care and Visiting Committee is a dedicated group of people who are committed to expressing a ministry of compassion and caring with people who consider themselves a part of the Trinity family, giving primary attention to seniors who are at risk of experiencing isolation. Expressions of care happen through telephone calls, special occasion cards as well as in person visits. Each committee member has a list of people with whom they stay in touch, offering regular empathetic listening support and encouragement. At present the list includes 71 people aged 80 and over.

We arrange to make special visits, if possible, on the birthdays of people who are 90 or over. There are currently 21 people on this list and one person, Geneva Thompson deserves special mention since she celebrated her 100 th birthday this year! Bill Brownlee continues to provide beautiful personalized cards and they are always appreciated.

Several people from our committee also make weekly visits to Trinity folk who are receiving care in hospital and relevant information is shared with Rev. Ted and with Lisa. Our group also takes responsibility for inviting volunteers from the congregation to come to the church a little earlier on Sunday morning so that when people walk through the door to attend worship, they are given a warm and friendly greeting.

Plans are underway to identify people who are not able to attend church services and who would like to borrow a hymn book from the church and / or receive a communion kit for their own experience of participating in worship at home through online streaming or via cable TV. Communion kits will be delivered for those who would find these helpful.

Our group has gathered bimonthly and during our meetings we have updated our contact lists and encouraged one another through sharing experiences of our interactions with folks from the congregation and as well as noting special needs for pastoral care.

Recognition and gratitude for this valuable activity of expressing God's love is extended to Joanne Bernier, Karen Brophey, Claudette Brown, Carolyn Crawford, Rob Farris, Wanda Gleason, Maurice Laporte, Viola MacVicar, Jean Mitchell, Sandi Rozicki, Pat Sadler and John Sheridan.

In addition we were blessed by the lively presence and contributions of Brenda Holbein, who sadly passed into spirit in November of this past year. Her cheerful enthusiasm was deeply appreciated and she has been very much missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Smith

Worship Report

The committee consists of Rev. Dr. Ted Harrison, Betty Farris, Wanda Gleason, Chris Ford, Barb Roberts, Marian Robinson, Rod Carley, Heather McKercher, Karen Brophey and Bonnie Rae Bailey. Thank you to these people for their time and effort to help Trinity's services run efficiently, while making it safe and welcoming.

The committee regretfully said goodbye to 2 members as of May 30 th when Marian Robinson and Rod Carley moved away from North Bay. We thank them for their contribution and dedication to Worship at Trinity since 2019. Bonnie Rae Bailey's term of 6 years is complete as of the Annual General Meeting.

The committee meets with Rev. Ted to ensure that all areas of the worship service are carried out effectively. The Worship committee is responsible for acquiring ushers, lay readers, and the lift operators, preparing the chancel for each service, preparing Communion, assisting with Baptism services, and establishing policies regarding use and care of the sanctuary.

Pandemic protocols did not affect how worship was conducted this year. Attendance on Sunday mornings continued to increase through the year from a low of 49 on January 1 st to a high of 232 on Christmas Eve.

Rev. Kathy McCallum and Rev. Lillian Roberts led the services while Rev. Ted was away; Rev. Kathy on February 19 and Rev. Lillian on June 18. Brenda McLay filled in for Betty on May 14.

Communion was served on February 26 for Lent, April 9 for Easter, June 11 for United Church of Canada's Anniversary, Oct 1 for Worldwide Communion, December 3 for Advent, and Dec 24 for Christmas. All these services used prefilled Communion cups with juice and wafer. The cost of these were generously donated by a Trinity member. This year Christmas Eve Communion was served during the morning service, instead of after the evening service.

Baptism was performed on May 14 and October 8. The heavy stone Baptismal Font is difficult to move and is not easily accessible. We received the Baptismal Font from Elliott Lake's Holy Trinity United when that church was closing. The Elliott Lake congregation took some comfort in the fact that the font was going to be used the following Sunday, May 14 for a Baptism when it left Elliott Lake.

On June 11, the 98 th Anniversary of United Church of Canada was celebrated by serving Communion as it is annually at Trinity. This year, the Sunday coincided with the Canadian Shield Region's Festival of Faith in North Bay. Rev. Marlene Britton, Diaconal minister from General Council was the preacher with Linnea Good, United Church of Canada's musician and songwriter leading a ukulele choir.

On the 5th Sundays of any month during 2023, the local United Churches worshiped together. January 29 was at Emmanuel, April 30 at St. Andrew's, July 30 was an outdoor service at Carmichael, October 29 at Trinity and December 31 at Omond. Many people participated in this opportunity to gather together in faith and fellowship.

Other joint services were the Good Friday service at Omond. The Longest Night Service on December 21 is held at Trinity but is joint with St. Andrew's and this year attendance was doubled from previous years.

During July and August, St. Andrew's and Trinity continued the long-standing arrangement to share Pastoral Care and Worship over the summer months while each church is closed for holidays. In 2023, Trinity was closed in August.

The Joy Band and the full choir provided the music for the Remembrance Day Service on November 12.

AOTS led the service on November 26.

Sandy Haslam decorated the sanctuary beautifully for spring and fall. Lillian Roberts lent her tasteful decorating skills for Thanksgiving. In preparation for Advent, the sanctuary was attractively decorated for Christmas under the direction of Nancy Dewar-Stenning. She was assisted by Noreen and Ross Brewer, Glad Banks-Bryer, Keith Bryer, Barb and John Roberts, Lillian Roberts, Cathy Brewer, Darlene Laferriere, Dave McKenney, Heather McKercher, Kirk and Sue Elliott and Rick Banting.

The 4 weeks of Advent included Communion (Hope), White Gift and Children's Pageant (Peace), Choir Cantata (Joy) and Christmas Eve (Love).

The Stewardship Committee asked for a tally of volunteer hours from our committee, and it was discovered that our small group coordinates more than 350 volunteer hours per year to schedule ushers, lift operators, and Readers. Add to that the hours that the individual committee members use to schedule the weekly volunteers, attend meetings, prepare Communion, write reports, and other responsibilities as outlined in the by-laws. Trinity is truly blessed.

A special thank you to Sue Miller who has used her considerable experience to manage the "front of the house" every Sunday.

Thank you to Rev. Ted. We appreciate his leadership, wisdom, compassion, and humour. Thank you to Betty Farris, who along with the choir added so much to the services with their music. The Worship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the congregation for their willingness to carry out the necessary tasks for the worship services.

Respectively submitted by Bonnie-Rae Bailey

Trustees Report

The Board of Trustees, unlike most other committees, enjoys the stability of a five-year term for members. Fortunately, for those agreeing to serve, the work of our trustees is not usually overwhelming or time consuming. Our responsibilities are set out in the Manual: The United Church of Canada: Appendix II, Trusts of Model Deeds.

In recent past reports, I have usually been able to report that the list of Trustees has remained mostly unchanged, with those folks elected as trustees fulfilling their five-year terms, potentially becoming ten years if they complete two terms. The loss of Jean Rideout has been felt by and affected many in our congregation. She was a part of numerous activities at Trinity and was a trusted and valued member of the Trustees. I will miss her valued advice and help with the investments, having served as a signing authority for several years.

The Board of Trustees is entrusted with those matters related to the fixed and fiscal property of the congregation. In carrying out their duties, the Trustees ensure that the church building and contents are adequately insured. This past year the United Church embarked on a self-insurance program aimed at reducing premiums for congregations. As you can imagine with a project of this magnitude and complexity, there have been a few challenges. Insurance is never easy and I expect that we will financially benefit. Ensuring that we maintain adequate and appropriate coverage will require close attention from the Trustees this coming year.

Kirk Elliott, Chair

Monday Morning Food Shelf Report

Our Food Shelf was deeply saddened by the death of long time Food Shelf shopper and dear friend Jean Rideout this fall. We are grateful for all her support over the years, along with her husband Don, who shopped and delivered food each week. Jean is deeply missed.

The Monday Food Shelf, as an essential service to those in need in our community, continues to offer food support throughout the year. In 2023 the Monday Food Shelf saw a substantial increase in the number of users to our Food Bank services. We provided food assistance to a total of 1225 persons. Recently we have been seeing an increase in people experiencing homelessness using our Food Shelf. Church food banks and the Gathering Place are currently the only organizations that are able to provide food to those without an address. We have also recently seen an increase in International Students accessing our Food Supports. We are grateful to Canadore College for donating \$5000 to help offset this added cost to our program.

Our Food Shelf Volunteers are: Sandy Foster, John Haflidson, Pat Sadler, Judy Szumik, Lillian Roberts, Heather McKercher, Laura Minns, Jim Liddell and Chris Ford. Marian Robinson and Joe Drinkwalter resigned from our team as they both moved away. New members to the team this year are: Gord Ford, Debbie Brown, Meredith Buckley, Terry Martinelli, Marg Souter, Ruth Ledrew and Don ?.

Sandy Foster, Chris & Gord Ford, along with Pat Sadler are the Food Shelf shoppers. "Sister" Laura Minns handles our clothing distribution. Jim Liddell and Lisa Blais are the Food Shelf Coordinators.

Thank you to the Trinity congregation and the wider community who have donated to the Food Shelf throughout the year. We are grateful to local community groups and individuals who donate items and cash to help stock our shelves. Thank you to Cobbs Bakery and the Salvation Army for regular donations of bread and rolls.

Our food shelf ministry is a very valued and valuable service to our community. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

Submitted by Jim Liddell and Lisa Blais

Infant Food Shelf Report

Since September 2014 the Trinity Infant Food Shelf has been assisting vulnerable families and their infants until one year of age, providing critical baby supplies as well as education and support. The Infant Food Shelf is open at Trinity weekly on Wednesdays from 10am to 12noon. Any family or caregiver requesting assistance can access the IFS monthly. In 2023 we served 46 families.

We are pleased to work with community agencies including CAS (Children's Aid Society), CAPC (Community Action Program for Children), ICDP (Infant and Child Development Program) and HBHC (Healthy Babies Healthy Children) who support clients to access the program.

Our roster of volunteers includes Linda McLay and Anne Smith Co Chairs, Janice Brownlee, Bonnie-Rae Bailey, Pat Clysdale, Darlene Floyd, Judi Rose, Gael Dicht and Barbara Brunette who provide hands on support and education to the families that attend. Our volunteers also support the Infant Clothing Boutique which is operated monthly by CAS on Elmwood.

Many thanks to Sharen Liddell who provides her sewing skills to make Infant Sleep Sacs as well as cozy blankets and to Pat Clysdale who keeps us well supplied with books which are much appreciated by the clients. Some new sewers have also approached us about volunteering their skills so Sharen is supporting that process.

We are pleased to work with community agencies including CAS (Children's Aid Society), CAPC (Community Action Program for Children), ICDP (Infant and Child Development Program) and HBHC (Healthy Babies Healthy Children) who support clients to access the program. We are pleased to work with community agencies including CAS (Children's Aid Society), CAPC (Community Action Program for Children), ICDP (Infant and Child Development Program) and HBHC (Healthy Babies Healthy Children) who support clients to access the program.

Submitted by
Anne Smith Co Chair

The Compassionate Committee for the Homeless of North Bay Report

Anne Smith and Sue Miller are members of the Compassionate Committee on behalf of Trinity United Church North Bay. They participate in monthly meetings which include a guest speaker who speaks to what is needed in the community or what their organization is doing to help the homeless in North Bay.

Backpacks of Love: The committee of volunteers packed 50 backpacks filled with donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, antiperspirant, lip balm, socks and more. Bags were dropped off at North Bay Crisis Centre, the Indigenous Friendship Centre, the Gathering Place and the Aids Committee of North Bay.

Winter Boot Campaign: Five car trunks were filled with hats, mitts, scarves, and thermal socks, and 100 pairs of brand-new winter boots were donated to the homeless.

Trinity AOTS gave a generous donation of \$200 to the Winter Boot Campaign and it helped purchase many new boots.

Organizations like The Aids Committee of North Bay, Healthy Community Ambassador Program, Open Arms Café, Boots on the Ground and Hope Awaits Ministries Men's Shelter were very excited and thankful to receive the brand-new mitts, thermal socks, and boots to clothe the homeless in the frigid winter weather.

The Compassionate Committee for the Homeless of North Bay is very grateful to Trinity who agreed to provide space and support for hosting an information evening at Trinity in early November called "What you need to know about helping people who are experiencing homelessness". We had around 60 – 75 people attend even though there was a snow storm on that day. The committee is planning to have another information session November, 2024.

A Quick Reference Guide is kept current and lists community resources available for people experiencing homelessness. The Compassionate Committee also does activities related to promoting social justice for those experiencing homelessness. A letter has been sent to all levels of government urging them to keep recommendations in the National Housing Accord a priority. Also a letter was sent to the Council asking that some of the Casino funds be used for affordable housing and supports for people experiencing homelessness and a letter is being drafted re the importance of a Guaranteed Liveable Income.

Thank you notes of appreciation were sent from the committee to organizations who provide support for people experiencing homelessness.

Many thanks for the ways that Trinity provides support to our community through this committee.

Please sign up on Facebook to receive updates at [@compassionatecommitteeofnorthbay](#).

Report from Sue Miller and Anne Smith, Trinity United Church representatives on the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless of North Bay.

Nominations Committee Report

It is with much appreciation and thanks that we recognize the time and talents of so many gifted and generous people who contribute to the governance of Trinity United Church. Serving on the board, on a committee or as a leader of a representative group is a calling. At Trinity, we are blessed to have so many people who have answered this call and continue to serve!

It is with sadness that we recognize the death of some of these members, who have given so much to the life of Trinity. The legacy of service will live on while we miss Jean Rideout (Trustee, Honourary Elder) and Brenda Holbein (Finance & Stewardship, Pastoral Care & Visiting).

We will also miss those dedicated members who have stepped down and moved away from North Bay, Don Haslam (Ministry & Personnel, Canadian Shield Regional Council Representative), Rod Carley (Worship) and Marion Robinson (Worship).

We would like to recognize with thanks the following 2023 members who are retiring this year: Bonnie Rae Bailey (Worship Chair) and Carling Lutecki (Sunday School Superintendent).

In 2024 we look forward to welcoming Amanda Silk as Vice Chair. Amanda will serve as Vice Chair to Glenn Brophey during the second year of his two-year term. Cindy Brownlee's term as Past Chair is complete and she will remain on the board as a Member-At-Large. We are pleased to welcome Andrew Whitehead (Communications and Technology), Lillian Roberts (Worship), Gord Ford (Worship), and Abigail Sanders (Christian Education Committee and Youth Representative).

Do you feel called to serve? We invite people to step forward at any time if they feel a calling to contribute to any one of the many groups and committees of the board. We are seeking two Trinity representatives to the Canadian Shield Regional Council and additional members to join the Worship committee. Please reach out to any member of the board if you are interested in either of these positions, or any other position.

Respectfully submitted.

Cindy Brownlee, Bonnie Rae Bailey, Glenn Brophey.

Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School is an exciting and energetic place to spend Sunday mornings! This year we have seen our numbers slowly return to pre-pandemic levels – which is very exciting! Each Sunday morning at Trinity, you may find the Sunday School children cooking in the kitchen, creating crafts in the Fellowship Hall, playing games in the gym and discovering God at work in our world through some other hands on activity! Our Sunday School children are very comfortable in the church and are an active part of our congregation - leading us in our call to worship, performing in our Mustard Seed shows and Christmas Pageant, and participating in the regular life at Trinity.

The Children wrapped up the year with another wonderful Christmas Pageant, “A Shepherd’s Tale”, written by Brenda McLay and directed by Darlene Laferriere. Special thanks to our accompanist, Sophia Karasheva.

Our Sunday School includes approximately 30 children but our average attendance each Sunday is between 6 and 10 children plus helpers. Due to difficulties in obtaining Sunday School teachers and fluctuating attendance, we have modified how we do Sunday School. Typically we have been running one group each Sunday with one teacher and some fantastic helpers.

Our Sunday School teachers and leaders are: Diane Cook, Caroline Harrison, Linsey Mutch, Carling Lutecki, Abigail Sanders, Marcel MacDonald, Cindy Brownlee and Lisa Blais. Thanks also to our excellent and enthusiastic helpers; Amelia MacDonald, Erin Harrison, Rowan MacDonald, Jared Johnson, Sophia Karasheva, Evelyn Cassell, Jai, Erik Clausen, Kaydence Einarson, and Anna Mary & Tony Campbell

Thank-you to the wider church family for welcoming, encouraging and supporting the many activities that our Sunday School children participate in.

Submitted by Lisa Blais

Vacation Bible Camp Report

The Trinity GPI’s were on the case!

Trinity’s Vacation Bible Camp played host to 60 campers and youth leaders from July 24th to 28th. We had a fantastic week becoming GPI’s (God’s Private Investigators) looking for evidence of God’s handiwork in our world and in each other. This year our VBC benefited from the assistance of 3 Summer Students who helped develop and set up the program: Abigail Sanders, Andrew Whitehead and Nick Babin – summer students extraordinaire! There are numerous people to thank!

- Marcel MacDonald, who co-leads VBC every year and also runs a fabulous music and movement session for the kids.
- Our video actors, including (former) Mayor Al MacDonald for appearing in our daily videos
- Rob Sanders and Andrew Whitehead for video editing
- Inspector Clue – Les Clue, for starting us off on our daily adventures.
- Lisa Blais, who creates, coordinates and administers the camp each year

As always, we are grateful for the major support of the AOTS who donate money to help with food and camp sponsorships AND purchased tickets for us to ride the Carousel and Train!

We were extremely lucky to be fed by a wonderful kitchen crew led by Janice Brownlee and Jean Mitchell – a hearty thank you to them and to all the kitchen helpers who provided sustenance to hungry campers and their helpers!

Many of our camp leaders were former campers – and we are so grateful for their willingness to give up a week of their summer to help out. I think they even had fun too Thanks to Amelia MacDonald, Lauren Moore, Kaydence Einarson, Sophia Karasheva, Malcolm Boivin, Braunwyn McKenney, Duncan Lashbrook, Celea Cooney, Questa Jackson, Lily Broad, Alyssa Desmarais, Erik Clausen, and Ocean.

Thank you to the Trinity congregation and all those who donated food, money or time to help ensure a successful camp week – it takes a village!

Trinity’s VBC returns in August 2024!

Submitted by Lisa Blais

Mustard Seed Report

A cast of 21 young people between 4 and 15 years old put on two fabulous performances of “A Not So Terrible Parable” on June 3rd and 4th, 2023.

The Mustard Seed Players in 2023 were:

Sophia Karasseva, Kaydence Einarson, Clark Boivin, Mariah Allen, Amelia MacDonald, Gabrielle, Nevaeh Einarson, Norah Lutecki, Graham Shaver, Evelyn Cassell, Elinor Cassell, Skyler Rivard, Victoria Karasseva, Addison McCrae, Melody Rivard, Ryker Davis, Noah Shaver, Malakai Giorgetti, Tessa Miller-Delorme, Audrey Taylor, Annika Patreau

The Mustard Seed Production Team were:

Darlene Laferriere - Director
Nick Babin - Assistant Director
Chris Mogan - Musical Director
Jim Liddell - Stage Manager
Marcel MacDonald - Sound Technician
Nancy Dewar-Stenning, Eloise-Anne Davis, Clark Boivin – Sets and Props
Michael Miller - Video Technician
Sue Miller - Front of House
Lisa Blais - Producer

Special thanks to all the people who helped out in any way – there are many, many people to thank – our talented Cast and fabulous Production Team, those who lugged stage pieces, painted and built sets, those who handed out programs or collected tickets, people who distributed poster and of course, to those of you who donated time, talent or money. Gratitude also to Friends of Camp Caritou and the UCW for providing food and to the AOTS for their generous donation! And lastly, thanks to the Trinity family for their support!

Submitted by Lisa Blais

Youth & Young Adults Report

The youth and young adults group continue to be an active part of the life at Trinity. Trinity youth lay read, teach Sunday School, run tech, staff the nursery, help with Trinity projects, and are always there to lend a hand when needed.

After a few years hiatus, the Youth Group is back in full swing! Locally, under the leadership of Marcel MacDonald and Lisa Blais (with some assistance from Sandra Brownlee), the youth group have met for several activities such as: Maundy Thursday prayer vigil, Games Social, Hallowe'en Party, Paint Night, Baking for the Cookie Walk, Christmas Movie Night, and Church Sleepover.

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 the bags were delivered to North Bay Regional Health Centre for patients in the Mental Health Units, Crisis Centre (Futures and Four Elms Residences), Nipissing Attendance Centre, The Recovery Home, and Ojibway Women's Lodge and True Self street outreach. Thank-you to all the people who donated items and money to this wonderful outreach project! Special thanks to Sharen Liddell for sewing hundreds of hats and mitts. Thank-you to the Trinity Congregation for your support, as always!

Submitted by Lisa Blais

Tuesday Morning Coffee Group

Each Tuesday from 9:30 – 11:30 am, throughout the school year, the group meets for coffee or tea, fellowship and fun. The cost of running the program is financed through the weekly \$3 fee, donations and the occasional Fundraiser! Sincere thanks to Karen Ronald who provides childcare when children are present!

This year the group had several guest speakers from our community speaking on a wide variety of topics – Multicultural Centre, AIDS Society street outreach, Infant Food Shelf, Loaves and Fish Foodbank, the Compassionate Committee, Chair Yoga, Rod Carley, Trinity library talk, Adam Adler, Rotary Club, Your Downtown North Bay, Card Making, Nick's Place for Us, LGBTQ+ info, Nipissing Serenity Hospice, Trinity Apple Pie Project and many more!

All women are invited to come out anytime – on a regular or occasional basis. Look for us on Facebook or pick up a seasonal schedule from the table outside the church office. All women are invited to come out anytime – on a regular or occasional basis. Updates are posted on the Tuesday Coffee Group Facebook page and shared via email.

Submitted by Lisa Blais

North Bay Union Cemetery Report

Board meetings were held in April and November. Outstanding issues and implementation of the monthly schedule of responsibilities for the Board members were resolved. .

Henry Drenth remains the chairman, Dave McKee has been replaced by Lois MacLeod as the Treasurer. We thank Dave for his many years of service. Other Board members are Ross Brewer, Stuart Bailey, and Jim Cluff. Eric MacLeod also joined the Board in November. Ross was the contact for April & May, Henry for June, Stuart for July & August, Jim for September, and Henry for October & November.

Maintenance of the cemetery was provided as required. Many thanks to David Stencell (grave digging) and C&C Maintenance (grass cutting) who are our paid contractors. The entrance from Golf Course road was resurfaced to remove serious frost heaves. A computerized database of persons buried in the cemetery is maintained on a monthly basis by Ross Brewer. It is used by the board members to locate existing plots. New plot information is posted upon the completion of a sale or burial.

In 2023 there were:

5 Casket burials

18 Cremation burials

10 Monuments erected.

0 Cremation Plots sold

5 Casket Plots sold

2 Casket Plots bought back from owner

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Drenth, North Bay Union Cemetery Board
Submitted by Ross Brewer

4 Trinity Fundraising

A few years ago we formed the 4 Trinity Fundraising Team to raise money for Trinity. All the money we raise is put into general funds for our church. In 2019 we organized the first of our annual Cookie Walks, held the end of November. There are so many of you who help make this a success. People drop Christmas cookie tins off at Trinity throughout the year, and we need them all. Then there is the very generous number of talented bakers, including Trinity's own youth group, who donate wonderful baking. An amazing number of members from our church volunteer to come out to help with the actual sale of the cookies and prep before and after the event. The local community are now aware of our Cookie Walk and come to support us. Sales have increased and we raised the most money to-date this past year.

Some things have changed though since we started the 4 Trinity group. A couple of years ago two of the founding members moved away from North Bay. Sadly, Brenda Holbein, a founding member of the group, passed away last November.

Thank you all who have supported us this past year.

Submitted by Barb Roberts

Apple Pie Report

The apple pie project was once again a huge success. We were back into our own kitchen this year for apple pie preparation. All our volunteers enjoyed the social aspect of apple picking, apple peeling and assembling pies. There was much laughter and chatter!

Thank you to everyone who made this project a success. There were over 70 volunteers who made 1,133 pies. We raised the price to \$15.00 per pie and this seemed to be a good price point. After the expenses, the total from sales and donations was approximately \$16,565.

We would like to dedicate this project to the memory of Jean Ridout who worked diligently behind the scenes to make the Apple Pie project a success. As always, we remember Shirley Taylor who was the driving force for this project.

Respectfully submitted, Darlene Laferriere, aka the Apple Pie Lady

As One That Serves (AOTS) Annual Report

Your men's group, the AOTS, continues to provide fellowship through service to our church and beyond. Our active membership continues to be around 30. We continue to meet on the first Saturday of each month, starting off with a breakfast and continuing with a business meeting.

Through our gift card fundraiser, we are able to raise about \$4,000 annually. These funds are then re-distributed to youth activities in our church and to the broader community. Projects funded in 2023 include; purchasing new batteries for the defibrillator, supplying paint for the stage, purchasing new trays for the kitchen, supporting Pacsac smiles, the Alzheimer's Society, the Compassionate Group, Rotary Fill the Bus, the Santa Fund, Scouts, Vacation Bible Camp, Trinity Family Day, Wildcat Special Olympics and the church general fund. Remember, these projects are only possible through your participation in the gift card program. While the cards are purchased at face value, the AOTS receives on average 3% of face value. Speak to any member about joining the program if you are not already participating. If you are participating, thank you!

We hope that everyone enjoyed our annual Soup Tasting event as well as the Shrove Tuesday Supper. Sadly this year, we lost two members of our group. One of our charter members, Al Moyer as well as Keith Serson. We miss their fellowship.

On a final note, thanks goes to our outgoing Treasurer, Bill Brownlee. Our finance guru has been caring for our books for many years. Thanks to Paul Kroecker who will be taking over.

Bob Cook President

AOTS Financial Statement to 31 December 2023				
Register Balance 1 January 2023				\$ 8,707.33
	Receipts	Expenses	Difference	
Gift Cards	\$ 129,665.00	\$ 126,978.81	\$ 2,686.19	
Breakfasts	\$ 2,868.55	\$ 2,536.54	\$ 332.01	
Dues	\$ 360.00		\$ 360.00	
Jackets etc	\$ 375.00	\$ 893.94	\$ (518.94)	
Pancakes	\$ 1,049.00	\$ 446.69	\$ 602.31	
Pudding	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 950.00	
Soup Tasting	\$ 1,058.00	\$ 165.78		
Sunrise Service	\$ 40.10	\$ 69.79		
Retreat		\$ 500.00		
Events		\$ 265.14		
Other Donations	\$ 353.50	\$ 7,019.03	\$ (6,665.53)	
Youth Support		\$ 1,218.91	\$ (1,218.91)	
Totals	\$ 136,819.15	\$ 140,194.63	\$ (3,375.48)	\$ (3,375.48)
Bank/Register Balance 31 December 2023				\$ 5,331.85
Trinity	Soup Tasting	\$1,000.00		
	Commitment	\$2,000.00		
	Defibulator	\$397.76		
	Paint for Stage	\$595.00		
	Kitchen Stove Repairs	\$238.47		
	Trays for Kitchen	\$1,012.80		
	Retreat Spirit Point	\$500.00		
Speakers	Alzeimer Society	\$200.00		
	The Compassionate Group	\$200.00		
	Small Town Publishers	\$200.00		
	Rotary Fill the Bus	\$200.00		
	Santa Fund	\$550.00		
Youth Support	Scout Badges	\$375.00		
	Vacation Bible Camp	\$268.91		
	Wildcat Special Olympics	\$700.00		
	Packsac Smiles	\$250.00		
		\$8,437.94		

UCW Annual Report

This last year has been busy for the UCW. As we start to come back together since Covid-19, the ladies are finding themselves more challenged by the things they do.

We had more catering jobs (receptions) than I can remember. We have decided not to resume the Friday Luncheons, although we are still doing lunches after church. We have also had a number of receptions for Celebration of Life, wedding vow renewal, and a wedding reception. During the Christmas season, we had 2 receptions following concerts.

The ladies did decide not to cater to receptions that are in the evening, as it is too hard to go home later at night.

Another change was the set up of the bazaar. This year it was totally in the Fellowship Hall – bake table, craft table, tea tables, and Camp Caritou. The ladies enjoyed having it all in one place, with all feeling part of the action. It is amazing how the whole congregation pulls together for this event.

Our annual potluck was its usual success. Friends from other United Churches joined with us and AOTS friends for a potluck. It was followed by an interesting and informative presentation by Rev. Lillian Roberts on handling grief.

We were delighted to help Rae celebrate her 90th birthday, and send Geneva greetings for her 100th birthday. Such wonderful milestones for such wonderful people.

The Canadian Shield Regional UCW continues to need your prayers and support as the executive struggles to keep interest alive in this branch of the UCW.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Biondi, President.

UCW Treasurer's Report 2023

Balance in Register		8883.04
	Receipts	
Offerings		3866.00
Luncheons		949.00
Bazaar		2976.00
Donations (Funerals, Personal)		2945.00
Total		19619.04
	Disbursements	
Staff Christmas Stipends		425.00
Bank fees		40.90
Expenses		2283.55
Total		2749.45
	Donations	
Mission and Service		3000.00
Trinity Board		7200.00
Trinity Food Shelf		1000.00
Trinity Infant Food Shelf		1000.00
Canadian Bible Society		200.00
VON Meals on Wheels		400.00
Packsac Smiles		600.00
North Bay Regional Hospital		400.00
Nipissing Hospice		400.00
Total		14200.00
Bank Balance		7822.38
Outstanding Cheques		2950.57

Prayer Shawl Annual Report

I am sure that the knitters/crocheters have very sore fingers if the number of shawls produced this year is any indication! These people are very dedicated to providing these cozy comforting shawls. It is their hope that each person who receives one feels the warmth of love and caring with which each was created.

Prayers are the things that guide the creators in the making of a shawl/lap robe.

“Dear God, You are our hope and strength and a very present help in times of trouble. But, in the midst of pain and sorrow, You are often the last looked to for help. Please help this shawl to remind the one wearing it of Your love, giving this person a sense of peace because You are always with him or her. Amen”

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Biondi, Leader

North Bay Scout Group Annual Report

Our Group Committee members are:

Vacant – Group Commissioner
Anna Wright – Group Registrar
Rita Deschene – Group Treasurer
Cynthia Jackson – Fundraising
Gord Ford – First Aid Training
Julie Carson – committee member

Our Group is pleased to have Trinity as a sponsor as well as having use of Trinity for our weekly meetings for all sections – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Ventures/Rovers.

The Beaver program has seen surge, with 16 registered youth and we are currently at capacity due to the limited trained Scouters at this time. Most are relatively new to the program. Ryan Rozicki continues to manage the section with help from new Scouter Al Montcalm, and some further support from committee members, Anna, Cynthia, and Julie. Recent we have gained the support of one of our Venturers, Liam Hodgins, who has the stamina to play games with the Colony.

Our Cub program remains steady with 20 registered youth. A few have siblings in Beavers, so meeting on the same night has benefited both sections. Relatively new Scouter Emma Langdon-Hodgins is the lead Scouter with support from Kelly Miles, Jason Gauthier, Sandy Hodgins, Steve Spack, and Lisa Bennett. The pack is young with 10 or so having just come up from Beavers. The leadership team has been slowly integrating new skills and refreshing old ones in order to take them to an upcoming camp in the Spring.

Our Scout program is still strong with 14 youth and three Scouters – Hillary Hamilton, Desmond Green, and Brian Vrouvas. The section held a spring camp where they did work on the cabins at our local Timberlake Camp.

The Ventures program has two youth and meets in conjunction with the Rover Crew (18-26 age group) which has four members. Most of these young adults have been together since Beavers/ Cubs and share a strong bond. They are supported by three seasoned Scouters, Derek Lawday, Roger Cook and Dizzy Castle. They too helped with the spring overnight at our Timberlake camp with the Troop. They also did a fall canoe camp. It was a beautiful weekend, weather wise, and there were some beautifully scenic pictures of the paddle out on a foggy Sunday morning.

With regards to fundraising there are now three National campaigns that help support our group: Apple Day, Scout Popcorn, and Scout Seeds. Again, the church community continues to provide patronage to these events. We had a very successful Apple Day in October. With the help of Dave McKenney, we did work with Hubbert's for Maple Syrup sales that helped the group as well.

Moving into 2024 we are hopeful for further growth in both youth and the expansion and development of the leadership team. We look forward to many more adventures and experiences. We truly value the sponsorship from Trinity United and its church community. Please let us know if you would like for a church member to join our monthly Group Committee meetings to learn more about what we do.

Yours in Scouting – North Bay Scouting Group

STATEMENT OF NORTH BAY GROUP JANUARY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2023

INCOME	
BALANCE AS DEC 31/22	\$ 9,598.23
APPLE DAY	3,111.55
CUBOREE	2,368.50
POPCORN SALES	168.05
REGISTRATION	765.00
COFFEE SALES	12.95
SEEDS SALES	75.40
MAPLE SYRUP	5,760.00
TRIP	250.00
PROMOTIONS	1,410.00
MOTOR MADNESS	375.00
RENDEZVOUS	600.00
TOTAL	\$24,494.57
EXPENSE	
TIMBERLAKE	3,707.05
BADGES	995.18
UNIFORMS	125.53
SCARVES	324.30
PACK	378.08
APPLE DAY	5.09
BANK CHARGES	93.78
STATIONARY	95.81
RENDEZVOUS	600.00
LEADER TRAINING	232.80
PRC	80.54
DONATION(REMEMBRANCE)	75.00
EQUIPMENT	359.29
PROMOTION PAYMENT	1,284.47
MAPLE SYRUP PAYMENT	3,629.00
CUBOREE	969.61
MOTOR MADNESS	387.93
TOTAL	\$ 13,343.46
PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 11,151.11



We are indebted to Lisa Blais who has provided the wonderful Photographs that appear in this report. Thank you Lisa!!

