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Spring Newsletter (March 2024)

From Rev. Ted's Desk: "Feeling HAL?"

Did you know that the English words, "Whole," "Health," "Holy" and "Hale" all share a common root in the Old English word, "Hal"? Imagine if that old word "Hal" came back! If a friend had been through the wringer in any way – physically, emotionally, or spiritually – we could simply ask, "Are you Hal?" It would mean that entire spectrum: Are you feeling whole, healthy, connected, and holy?

If the word "Hal" came back, we would probably speak of our communities with the same language. In good times, we'd notice our collective "Hal" increase! Economists would probably create a "Hal Index"- whereby time spent with family and friends, time spent praying or learning or meditating, time spent serving others or recreating in nature would determine consistently higher rates of individual and collective wholeness, health, connection and holiness. We would recognize that "High Hal" people radiate "Hal" into their communities. Similarly, a "High Hal" community sustains its members and radiates plenteous "Hal" into the world it serves and cherishes.

In the season of Easter, the church celebrates the miraculous injection of "Hal" into our depleted lives and into our world. We come to church expecting to find wholeness, holiness, health and connection - and we leave church "charged up"- to radiate that same overflowing wholeness, holiness, connectedness and healthy life into the world!

Wishing you *boundless* Hal!



"On a Musical Note"

Our Trinity Choir has practised diligently to prepare special music for the Lenten and Easter seasons. I am very grateful for the dedication, spirit and expertise of our choir members.

The choir is very grateful for the tech team, who make it possible to share our music with live streaming, YouTube, and Your TV (Cogeco). Many people enjoy Trinity's weekly services because of the great team effort that we have.

On Good Friday, our choir will join with other United Church choirs to lead in music at the annual Good Friday service, held this year at Emmanuel United Church.

For Easter Sunday, the choir will be joined by an instrumental ensemble, as we celebrate our risen Lord. The choir will present special Easter music, culminating in the "Hallelujah Chorus". Members of the congregation are invited to join with the choir at the front of the sanctuary in singing the chorus, to close the service. (We have extra music!)

Also on Easter Sunday, a Trinity Youth Choir will join with the Senior Choir in presenting one of the anthems. We thank the youth for their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the worship service.

Thank you to the many Lenten Blues musicians, who have enriched our services tremendously during the 6 weeks of Lent!

As we move forward into the Easter season and Pentecost, the Senior Choir will continue to present weekly anthems, in keeping with the worship themes. We promise a surprise or two, as we journey through these seasons.

The J.O.Y. Band rehearses each week in the Fellowship Hall. We will present a spring concert in the church sanctuary on Sunday, June 2, at 2 p.m. (Several J.O.Y. Band members are part of the Easter Sunday ensemble.)

The Joyful Bells, under the leadership of Brenda McLay, continue to practice weekly in the Board Room.

The Rapport Singers, led by Peggy Millar rehearse each Tuesday. They will have a spring concert on April 28th. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your support of our Trinity music groups. We especially thank their dedicated leaders, and the many dedicated volunteer musicians, who rehearse each week to bring the people of Trinity, and the wider North Bay community wonderful musical presentations.

In Easter Faith, and with thanks,
Betty Farris, Minister of Music.

Chairperson's Report

Easter is coming, the snow is (mostly) gone and spring is arriving! That reminds me of that old childhood poem - 'Spring has sprung and the grass has riz, I wonder where the flowers is?'

The miracle of new growth every spring is a great reminder of our spiritual rebirth that we are blessed to receive at Easter each year. Here at Trinity many of us are thankful for our past bouquets of faith and service and also feel like we are part way through a rebirth. The flowers are starting to bud anew for our community and I am filled with a sense of renewal and hope partly because we know that we are tackling the challenges we are facing, not just letting them determine our future. Just as nature awakens with vibrant colors and fresh scents, we can renew our spirits and embrace the opportunities for growth and positive change. Let's take this time to reflect on our journey, express gratitude for our past blessings, and look forward to the possibilities that lie ahead.

May your Easter be filled with joy, love, and cherished moments with family and friends.

Warm regards, Glenn

Faith Forward 2030

The vision identified in the Strategic Plan of the United Church of Canada is

“Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.”



Trinity's Faith Forward 2030 team believes that we are called to be part of this vision. Our bold investigation into the state of our beautiful old building contracting a structural engineer, our intentional expansion into the social media world, our examination of our building usage to explore ways to maximize the use of our facilities, our development of a digital calendar, our soon to be evolving website, the building energy audit and upcoming efficiency initiatives, and our survey of 25 to 40 year olds are just some of the ways Trinity is demonstrating that we are a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled community united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.

We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. The Faith Forward team are part of the Trinity community, just like you. We are not experts, but we have committed to step up to this vision. You are invited to also contribute to these efforts by sharing your thoughts and ideas with anyone on the team.

Stay tuned, more to come!

Your Faith Forward 2030 team(s)

Glenn, Cindy, Amanda, Gerry, Alex, Katy, Darlene, Doug, Cassie, Chris C, Sandra R, along with the support of Jim D, Bob, Rob and Lisa.

Trinity Disciples and Stewards into 2024

Part of our calling as disciples is the responsible and generous stewardship of God's gifts - God invites us into a partnership because our talents, leadership and generosity are ways through which God can bless the world when we find ways to unleash them.

In the autumn of 2023, the leaders of Trinity shared with you an accounting of how many of our volunteer hours and generous financial donations flow through Trinity to bless us and the wider community in which we are planted. In response to this, many people at Trinity expanded their generosity. Over 20 families and individuals shared their intention to increase their donations to Trinity. Over the last year, more than a dozen families and individuals have joined the Trinity "Pre-Authorized Remittance" program for the first time, ensuring that Trinity's financial base is better sustained and healthier. In 2023, PAR donations made up 69% of offerings to Trinity, and the average donation increased by 6%. If you would consider making your donations stronger and more predictable by using PAR, please call Wanda at Trinity's office (705-474-3310). Your generosity will be kept confidential and used with great care.

Trinity's leadership and staff so appreciate your prayerfully discerned giving and generous sharing of your volunteer time!

Communications & Technology

Streaming:

As I mentioned in our last Newsletter, two of our streaming team members are likely heading off to university next fall, so we'll need some new volunteers. If you are interested, please speak to me and I'll give you a no-obligation tour of the tech. The system is very reliable and easy and fun to operate with its joystick and pushbutton consoles.

As of mid-March we've streamed 10 services and the ACM, and have had over 1,600 views. We normally have about 20 real-time online viewers on Sunday morning, with the other 150 watching later that day or on following days. Thank you Andrew, Marcel, Michael, and Rich.

Hardware and Networks:

The Internet failed once this year. Actually, it failed during the week and then wasn't great on Sunday – but I think those incidents were related.

Newsletters:

Ross has been busy since our last Newsletter, with his regular “wayside pulpit” updates, his great work on our 2023 Annual Report, and now this Newsletter. Thank you Ross.

Surveillance:

I still haven't managed to fix the camera that quit working several months ago, and my attempts to fix it have likely led to another failure. Also, I still have one last camera to install as part of the “Ontario Grant to Support Anti-Hate Security Measures” project, and have been approved for another outside camera from another grant. Anybody interested in having some fun installing POE surveillance cameras? The cabling is done – it's just a matter of configuring the cameras and the software.

Respectively submitted by:

John Roberts,
Communications and Technology committee chair

Finance & Stewardship

We believe God is calling Trinity United Church to:

Reach out and serve the wider community and the world; Nurture spirituality in people of all ages;
Be a safe, open, welcoming, inclusive community of faith.

Income for the first two months of 2024 was \$63,324, 24% higher than last year. Offerings accounted for 63% of income while donations for Christian Education and Outreach contributed 15% and 17% respectively. Thank you for your contributions and a special “THANK YOU” to the people who started new PAR accounts over the past year.

Year-to-date expenses as of February 29th were \$76,020, exceeding income by \$12,696. Personnel accounted for 52% of expenses while Christian Education and Outreach each accounted for 13%.

A presentation on Legacy Giving was given on January 28th by Melody Duncanson-Hales, our Stewardship Advisor from the Canadian Shield Region.

Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by:

John Haflidson

Your Will and Legacy Giving

On Sunday January 28th, Trinity was visited by the Reverend Melody Duncanson-Hales, who participated in our worship and then spoke to an after-service “Lunch and Learn” event about legacy giving.

The United Church provides a free “Will Workbook” (copies continue to be available from the church office). We would all be doing our families a great favour by spending some time with the “Will Workbook”. It contains exercises that walk you through how best to be remembered, and how to create thoughtful and generous future assets for your family and community. At popular request, future “will” events will be planned!

From the M&P Committee

Following is a summary, prepared by Rev. Lillian Roberts, of the process in which Lisa will engage to be commissioned by the Regional Council in May.

Lisa Blais, our Faith, Formation and Outreach Minister is a Designated Lay Minister. When she joined the Trinity Ministry Team over fifteen years ago she was employed as a lay person under the rubric, “staff associate”. In 2000, the United Church decided to make changes to the requirements and process for lay persons offering paid accountable leadership. After undergoing some additional required training, Lisa was recognized by North Bay Presbytery in the new category of Designated Lay Minister.

Over the past few years, the United Church has once again been considering how lay paid accountable persons should be considered within the spectrum of “ministry personnel”. General Council in November 2023 decided to offer a pathway forward for those currently recognized and serving as Designated Lay Ministers to ordination or commissioning. Those meeting the criteria of experience, education and recognition could be granted "testamur". Testamur is the term used to indicate the determination is made that requirements for satisfactorily completing the program of study required for ordination or commissioning have been met.

Qualifying Designated Lay Ministers were invited to discern whether they were being called by God and the Church to become a member of ordered ministry, and whether their call was to ordained or diaconal ministry. The Church through the Office of Vocation would then interview and make the decision whether to grant testamur to the Designated Lay Minister. Regional councils would then be informed of the person’s eligibility for ordination/commissioning and be asked to ensure employment pieces were in order for the person to be recognized in the Celebration of Ministry services. Lisa prayerfully discerned her call to be a diaconal minister.

In the United Church of Canada, there are two expressions of the order ministry, ordained ministers and diaconal ministers. Both are equal offices within the ordered ministry of the United Church; both are eligible to use the honorific Reverend; both are compensated on the same salary categories; both are eligible to be called and not just appointed to ministry positions. Most of us have a sense of what it means to be an ordained minister, called to the ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care. Fewer of us will be familiar with what it means to be a diaconal minister, called to a ministry of education, service, pastoral care and social justice.

Lisa Blais, has been granted testamur by the Office of Vocation and is eligible to be commissioned. On May 5, 2024 when the Canadian Shield Regional Council meets in Sault Ste. Marie, she will become a diaconal minister of the order of ministry at the Celebration of Ministry service. Trinity is blessed by her continuing faithful service and celebrates this milestone with her!

Sunday School

Attendance in Sunday School has been steady which has been fantastic! We have had new families join our church and we are thrilled to be growing! Because of this growth, we are in need of new Sunday School teachers. Did you know that we plan a lesson around your gifts?

Love to cook – we’ll plan a Sunday School lesson that involves food. Love to garden, we can plan a lesson around that! Love music, or crafts, or games – we’ve got you covered there too! Our Sunday School program is a dynamic and fun place to learn about the bible and how to be God’s people in our world. We engage the message through stories, games, arts and crafts, cooking, science and more. If you’d like to join our Sunday School team, please speak with Lisa Blais or Marcel MacDonald.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday!

You are invited to a **Maundy Thursday Potluck** and Table Communion service at St. Andrew’s United Church on Thursday, March 28th in the gymnasium. Please use the McIntyre Street entrance. Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner starts at 6pm. Table communion worship will follow the meal. Please bring your own plate, cutlery, and a potluck dish to share.

Emmanuel United Church hosts our North Bay United Church **Good Friday** service on March 29th at 10:30am. That service will be available virtually via the St Andrews website, later the same day.

The Trinity AOTS Men’s Group hosts our **Easter Sunrise** service on Easter Sunday at 7:30am. We will gather with friends from Saint Andrew’s at the corner of Ferguson and McIntyre for outside worship, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall courtesy of the AOTS! We then fuel up for our joyous **Easter Sunday Communion** service in the sanctuary at 10:30am.

Youth Group

We invite any youth in Grade 7 and up to come out to any of our upcoming events. Throughout the year we will participate in a variety of fun activities with a goal towards building a community of faith and friendship.

The next Youth Event is our all night Prayer Vigil on Thursday March 28th from 7pm to Friday March 29th at 8am. We have a number of other upcoming events which include:

- ◆ Magical Mystery Tour - Saturday May 25th at 10am. Get into costume, solve a mystery out in the city and conclude with a late lunch.
- ◆ Youth Led Worship Service - Sunday June 9th - will begin planning for this event at the Overnight Vigil and a few other Youth Group Meetings in April and May.
- ◆ VBC Volunteer Opportunities - looking for volunteers (and will be hiring a small number of older youth) - August 12th - 16th from 9am - 4pm.
- ◆ Fall Confirmation Retreat - more details to follow - overnight at a camp.

Trinity Scouting Maple Syrup

Starting April 7th, Trinity member Dave McKenney will be taking your orders for Hubbert's Maple Syrup as a fundraiser for Trinity's Scouts.
PRICES: 500 ml jug - \$15; 1 L glass or jug - \$25; 2 L jug - \$40; 4 L jug - \$70.
Be in touch with Dave at 705-474-7847 or d127mckenney@gmail.com

The Trinity Coffeehouse, 7pm Friday April 19th

At least once a year, we convert Trinity's Fellowship Hall into North Bay's biggest Rec Room, and we take turns entertaining one another with music, dance, jokes and skits.

We enjoy decadent coffees and fancy desserts, and encourage one another's explosive talents!

Please join us on Friday April 19th at 7pm at "The Trinity Coffeehouse" (doors open at 6:30pm).

Sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Word is that a KING will walk among us!

"Membership in May"?

Trinity is overdue for a new Adult Membership Class. If you are not a full member at Trinity, we can fix that! If we have enough for a class, we will gather for a couple of Sundays after church during May, with the hope of welcoming our new members during a service in June! This is also a good Sunday for anyone interested in learning more about our Christian faith, or about the United Church of Canada.

If you're interested in a couple of informal gatherings to discuss Christian belief and how we "Do church the United way" - please be in touch with Reverend Ted and we'll make a plan!

The Trinity Testosterone Men's Canoe Adventure, 2024!

The "Testosterone Tradition" is to disappear into the wilderness for Father's Day weekend, but to have all our boys home for Father's Day dinner on Sunday evening (Friday AM June 14th - Sunday PM June 16th).

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Trinity Fellowship Hall as of Easter Sunday. Registrations will be limited, "overflow" will be on our waiting list. (*Fear not! There are always cancellations!*)

We'll gather in person some Sunday afternoon in May to study our maps and plan our logistics!

(Please note that the Trinity Testosterone adventure involves significant physical work, deprivation, KP duty, bugs, cold exposure, sunburns, discomfort, and truly obnoxious company.)

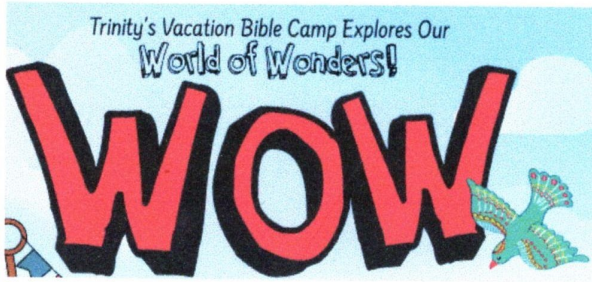
Rev. Ted's Secret Book Club

"Reverend Ted's Secret Book Club" will now only take place in those years when Trinity takes a July break - that way we can read the book in July, and attend our book party in August!

The idea is simple: Rev. Ted selects a favourite book that has impacted his own life of faith. For a suggested minimum donation of \$100, members and friends of Trinity get a copy of this year's book (to be read in July), and an invitation to one of several intimate backyard book parties (in August) to re-connect and discuss the book!

If you want to join in with us this summer, please call our office or e-mail Rev. Ted before June (tedharrison@hotmail.com). We'll need to order a big stack of books - Rev. Ted guarantees you a memorable selection!

Trinity's Vacation Bible Camp August 12 – 16, 2024 9:30 – 3:30



Come discover the wonders in creation, make new friends and have fun exploring the bible through games, crafts, cooking, music, experiments and more this summer! Children in Junior Kindergarten through to Grade 7. \$75 per child - all snacks, materials and a camp shirt included.

Music, Crafts, Baking, Games, Experiments and more! Youth in Grade 7 and up are welcome to volunteer for the week. Highschool volunteer hours will be granted for those who qualify. Registration is limited to 50 children. Registration packages are available now. For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Lisa Blais at blais.trinity@gmail.com.


Apple Pies

I know that it is Spring and Apple Pie time seems far away, but here are some tentative "save the dates"!

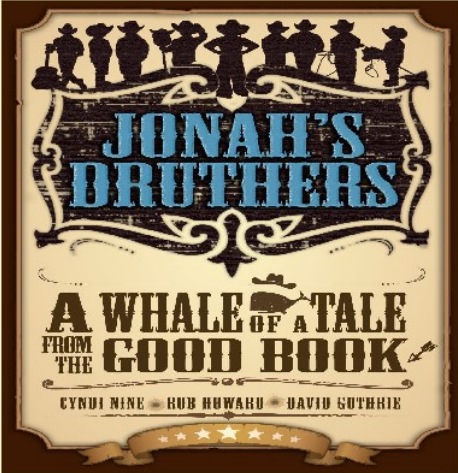
Sept 9, 10; spice bags & dry pastry
Sept 23, 24; pie bottoms
Oct 5; pick apples
Oct 6; wash apples
Oct 7, 8, 9, 10 make the pies!

Please note that dates are subject to change and details will follow.

Darlene aka "Pie Lady"



Is proud to present



Directed by Darlene Laferriere
Saturday May 25th 7 pm and Sunday May 26th 1 pm
\$10 Adults, \$5 Children (12 & under)
Trinity United Church, North Bay

Mustard Seed Productions was created in 2007 to provide opportunities for youth to build community around a common love of theatre. For more information contact Lisa Blais at blais.trinity@gmail.com

Dates For Your Fridge:

- ◆ Maundy Thursday: March 28th 5:30pm Potluck service at St. Andrews (see article - page 4)
Also: Trinity Youth Overnight Prayer Vigil
- ◆ Good Friday: March 29th 10:30am at Emmanuel Church (see article)
- ◆ Sunday: March 31st Easter Sunrise service, 7:30am at Ferguson and McIntyre
Easter Communion service, 10:30am, Trinity sanctuary
Gentlemen, don't forget to sign up for the "Trinity Testosterone"!
- ◆ Sunday: April 7th 10:30am "Holy Humour Sunday"
also: order your Trinity Scouting Maple Syrup!
- ◆ Friday: April 19th 7pm "The Trinity Coffeehouse" (doors open at 6:30pm)
- ◆ Sunday :April 28th Baptism Sunday (please contact our office with your interest, ASAP!)
- ◆ May 3rd to 5th Canadian Shield Regional meeting in Sault Ste Marie.
On this weekend, our own Lisa Blais will be commissioned as a Diaconal Minister!
- ◆ Sunday: May 12th Mother's Day, another Baptism Sunday
(Please contact the Trinity office with your interest, ASAP!)
- ◆ Saturday: May 25th 11am Youth City-Wide Magical Mystery Event
- ◆ Saturday :May 25th 7pm "Jonah's Druthers" Mustard Seed Show
- ◆ Sunday: May 26th 1pm "Jonah's Druthers" Mustard Seed Matinee
- ◆ Sunday: June 9th Special Youth-Led Anniversary service
(Trinity is 142 years old. The United Church is 99 years old!)
Service includes Holy Communion, 10:30am!
- ◆ Friday: June 14th to Sunday June 16th The 2024 Trinity Testosterone Men's Canoe Adventure!
- ◆ Sunday: June 23rd Trinity's last Sunday before Summer Break!
(Trinity closed for Summer vacation, June 24th – Wednesday July 31st)
- ◆ Monday: August 12th to Friday August 16th Trinity Vacation Bible Camp 2024!
- ◆ Sunday: September 8th 10:30am Rally Back Sunday service followed by afternoon Picnic



**Trinity
United
Church**

Find us on

YourTV
truly local

Sundays
8:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Cable 12 / HD Cable 700
(Check local listings for times)

Trinity United Church
North Bay, Ontario

Office: 705-474-3310 * Email: trinitynorthbay@gmail.com
trinitynorthbay.ca

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAM/RECORDED AND ARE AVAILABLE ON TRINITY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL www.youtube.com/c/trinitynorthbay. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCESS THE INTERNET AND WOULD LIKE A DVD OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE DELIVERD, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 705-474-3310.