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Fall Newsletter (September 2024)

From Rev. Ted's Desk: "This is Living"

While in some parts of our country and our world the summer of 2024 was filled with tumult, war, and natural disaster-- North Bay enjoyed a memorably lush, green summer. While that's enough to make anyone feel some pangs of guilt, I'm reminded of the profound poetry of Jack Gilbert. In his, "*A Brief for the Defense*," Gilbert writes: "*We must risk delight... We must have the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless furnace of this world... [that] there will indeed be music despite everything.*"

In late July I was on a demanding multi-day hike with old friends. It was muggy, it was buggy and muddy-- conditions were far from ideal. *But y'know what? The blueberries were having a banner year!* I watched one of my companions pause in the midst of his afternoon labours: He reached down and rewarded himself with a great mouthful of bounteous blueberries. In the midst of a mucky sweaty day, he turned his sun-burned face to the sky, he closed his eyes and he smiled: "*Ahhh! This... is living!*"

We're now headed into the challenges of a new autumn. At Trinity we're scheming towards renewal, even as we struggle with the often challenging realities of our country, our community, our world-- our building! In all this. I offer you that snapshot of gratitude --"*This is living!*" Because we are indeed called to savouring, we are beckoned by moments of delight. As we work together, as we pray and vision, labour, sweat and serve-- let us celebrate all the everyday blessings of discovery and beauty and connection. *This is, indeed, living. Thanks be to God!*

See you on Sunday,



Hello Trinity Friends!

With the recent chill in the air, it is starting to feel like Autumn is upon us – and as Autumn approaches, we turn our minds from the long, restful days of summer to the return of some of the routines we took a break from – hopefully feeling refreshed and energized!

This fall, we rally back to church on Sunday September 8th with Sunday School officially kicking off a new season. In the afternoon, everyone is invited to attend our annual Church picnic at Camp Tillicum. It is a fantastic way to spend time with your Trinity friends and family while enjoying good food, fellowship, games and an evening vesper's service on the shores of Lake Nipissing! See the flyer later in the newsletter for more information.

This summer, Trinity benefitted from hiring two summer students: Abigail Sanders and Andrew Whitehead. They were a huge help, providing leadership and helping to create a successful Vacation Bible Camp program, a Summer Sunday School program at St. Andrew's and Trinity, providing support for our Food Shelf Program and much more! Abbi and Andrew were a huge help this year and I am grateful for all their hard work and dedication this summer and wish them all the best for their year ahead at school – Andrew begins University this fall at McMaster, and Abbi continues highschool!

Trinity continued to be busy throughout the summer. We welcomed around 60 children and youth to our popular and active Vacation Bible Camp Program. Children discovered our World of Wonders through activities and songs and were extremely well fed thanks to our fabulous Kitchen team! Thanks to all who contributed to this program by donating time in the kitchen, baking, leading activities, and to those who made generous donations so that any child could come to camp! In particular thank you to the AOTS and UCW and thanks to Marcel MacDonald and our summer students, Abigail Sanders and Andrew Whitehead, who helped create and deliver this year's Vacation Bible Camp. (More details about VBC will be presented in our Annual Report).


Autumn is the perfect opportunity to try new things or to get more involved in the life at Trinity. Maybe you even have an idea for a new activity or group? As we rally back to Trinity this fall, I would love to hear

your ideas and have some conversation with anyone interested in dreaming up new ideas or activities. We are always looking for new people to help out – no experience is necessary and training is free! If you have a talent to share we'd love to hear from you! I encourage you to read through the newsletter to discover ways you can get involved! We are a thriving congregation because of the many, many people who offer their time and talents to our various ministries!

Wishing you abundant blessings this fall and throughout the year! See you at Trinity!

Lisa Blais
Faith Formation and Outreach Minister

Some musical notes...

 The choir is excited to return to a regular fall schedule. We will start the season with a hymn sing, led by the choir, on Sunday, September 1.

Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 5, 7:00-8:30. Anyone who is interested in joining the choir is asked to contact me at church or by phone (705-493-3143).

We will be preparing special music for Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day Sunday, Advent, and Christmas, as well as anthems for each Sunday service. We hope to have hymn sings on the first Sunday of each month. Our Senior Choir will also be presenting a Christmas cantata during the Sunday service on December 23. Watch for more information in the Christmas newsletter.

Thanks to John Roberts, Marcel MacDonald, Michael Miller, Rich McCallum, Rob Brownlee, Andrew Whitehead, and all others who help to stream our services in such a skilled manner. Your expertise and dedication is greatly appreciated by all. The choir also thanks the instrumentalists who volunteer their talents throughout the year. Special thanks goes to Laura Farris, Chris Clarke, Marcel MacDonald, Peggy Millar, Matt Whitehead, Jennifer Hedican, and many others. You truly do enrich our services.

Our choir and director appreciate the wonderful support that we continue to receive from you, our Trinity congregation.

As Minister of Music, I extend my love and gratitude for the hard work and strong commitment of each of our choir members. I feel privileged and honoured to work with you.

Sincerely, Betty Farris, Minister of Music

From the Chair of the Trinity Board

Even though it still feels like the beautiful weather might go on forever, it's time again to start thinking about our upcoming fall season at Trinity. Also, there are several Trinity leaders who have been quite busy over the summer and it's appropriate that we acknowledge their work and report to you the progress made over the summer.

The most visually obvious work is courtesy of our Faith Forward 2030 Building committee, with Gerry Foster and Jim Dickson taking the lead. They have been spending a lot of time with Eugene Longstreet, the engineer who we hired to do the structural assessment, as well as with Thermocoustics, the contractor who is doing the current work. Gerry and Jim have been working hand-in-hand with Bob Cook, our Building and Grounds chairman as we prepare to make informed recommendations to our Board concerning the long-term use of our building.

At the same time, our efforts to deliver our mission to our congregants, youth and those with fewer advantages have been ongoing. A great example - this week marked the latest edition of our Vacation Bible Camp for 50 kids!! This is really important fun and learning and it is refreshing to see what these folks get up to during the week. And this is just one of the multiple important things we engage in at Trinity.

At the Board level, we have been thrilled with the variety of groups and activities that are doing God's work. So much so, that we have been discussing how we can more effectively support this culture of "just getting things done" at Trinity. We thought a first step was to try to define for ourselves what 'success' looks like and so we asked each of our board members to independently list the four most important things we do and two things we should be trying to do better. In September we will be addressing the results of this survey as we seek to more effectively support our continued growth.

Also, this fall the kickoff planning for the United Church of Canada 100th anniversary party will take place. We have a number of folks interested in getting this party started and we'll all get to enjoy their work throughout the coming year. And like clockwork, it's time to book your calendars again for our famous annual apple pie project. As the air turns crisp and the leaves begin to paint the world in warm hues, this season of change and renewal brings new opportunities, events, and stories that we're eager to share together.

Glenn Brophey, Trinity Board Chair (2023-2025)

Faith Forward 2030 – Renewal Committee

I wanted to take a moment to thank the volunteers who have given so much of themselves to dream, brainstorm, develop and implement some initiatives in an attempt to renew the membership of our church family. Doug Bott-Baxter, Glenn Brophy, Cindy Brownlee, Alex Gasson, Katy James, Darlene Laferriere, and Amanda Silk have met since the spring of last year and we are so excited by the results of the efforts of the Faith Forward 2030 Renewal Committee. The two biggest accomplishments are a constantly updated Google calendar that is accessible to anyone inside or outside the church community, and an improved social media presence via Facebook. We are also working on a soon-to-be unveiled new website, and an Instagram account to increase our social media presence. Based on these efforts, we look forward to seeing an increase in weekly Sunday attendance, donations and Sunday school attendance.

Great work team!

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Silk

Finance & Stewardship

Income to July 31st is \$206,470, which is 4% lower than last year. Offerings account for 69% while Outreach and Christian Education donations contribute 14% and 5% respectively. THANK YOU so much for your contributions.

Income also includes a \$7,000 Federal Government Grant for employment of two summer students.

Expenses to July 31 st are \$258,520, which is only \$528 higher than last year. Personnel accounts for 62% while Property and Outreach each account for 13%.

Our YTD deficit stands at \$52,050, which is 18% higher than 2023.

The Stewardship Team has begun planning for this year's Giving Campaign, scheduled for three Sundays in October. During the campaign we will invite folks to intentionally and prayerfully consider their generosity.

Your ongoing gifts of money and time are much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by John Haflidson

UCW Report

The summer months were very quiet for the UCW. The one thing that did get accomplished was the cleaning out of "Fibber McGee's Closet" just outside the sanctuary on the 2nd floor. In September there will be an opportunity for anyone to help themselves to the Christmas decorations that have accumulated over time. These will be free for the taking. Anything left will be donated so that someone else can enjoy them. Thanks to Janice Brownlee for her capable assistance in this endeavour.

The UCW would appreciate your help in creating items that can be offered for sale at the Christmas Bazaar. Our cupboard is bare and we need to put our creative fingers to work to make items that others might like. The bazaar is Saturday, November the 9th.

Our first meeting will be on September 9th at 1:00 in the Fireside Room. All ladies are most welcome to come for goodies, chit - chat and fellowship.

Judy Biondi, President

Prayer Shawl Report

We had a blessing for the many prayer shawls that had been donated. The group would like to thank Ross Brewer for continuing to create the tags that are attached to each one.

The wool in the closet has been cleaned out, and organized. Colours which, in our opinion, would go together to create a shawl pleasing to the eye have been bagged, with hopefully enough yarn to make a prayer shawl. We are hoping that this will encourage people to pick up a bag, and to make something that others will enjoy.

We have had a few lap robes donated that have been quilted. Shawls do not have to be made of yarn. Sewn items are just as appropriate as those made of wool.

Thanks to all who have knit, crocheted, or sewn these works of wonder. Your efforts have been appreciated by all.

Judy Biondi, Leader

Monday Morning Food Shelf

Trinity offers food shelf items to those experiencing food insecurity each Monday from 9:30 – 11 am. Our clients come from diverse backgrounds: pensioners, families, under-employed, recent immigrants, and people experiencing homelessness. Some come for just one or two months to get help during a difficult time, while others use our food shelf every month. Our clients share stories of their struggles and words of appreciation for the help that our food shelf offers them.

If you would like to volunteer at our Monday Food shelf please speak with Lisa Blais or any of the food shelf volunteers who will gladly share how meaningful helping out at the food shelf is!

Items that are most useful for the food shelf are: cheese slices, peanut butter, jam, cereal, easy open canned meat or fish, fresh fruit and vegetables that have a longer shelf life (onions, potatoes, oranges, carrots, etc.), feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, granola bars and canned milk.

Your support of this very important ministry is greatly appreciated!

Tuesday Morning Coffee Group - Tuesday Mornings 9:30 – 11:30

Join us Tuesday September 17th for our welcome back potluck! We would love to have you join us for conversation and coffee (or tea). We are a non-denominational group of friendly and welcoming women of all ages who meet on Tuesday mornings throughout the school year. The focus is on building community and friendship. We enjoy a wide variety of topics and activities such as: monthly potlucks, local tours and guest speakers such as: authors, artists, crafters, health and wellness, internet safety and more. The cost is \$3.00 per week.

Childcare is provided in a safe, fun and stimulating environment for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

Membership at Trinity

Trinity's spring membership class never came to be-- but we'll fix that this fall! Membership at Trinity is an important part of your deepening sense of discipleship, as well as your participation in the life of our congregation. It's also a great option if you want to deepen your familiarity with Trinity and/or the United Church of Canada and its beliefs. Please be in touch with Reverend Ted about your availability to gather for a "brown bag" session after church of Sunday September 22nd or October 20th!

Women's Wellness Weekend

Trinity Women and their friends are invited to join us to "get away from the busyness of everyday life and spend a weekend dedicated to your physical, spiritual and mental wellness within a community of women, immersed in the beauty of Muskoka." Some activities that you can expect are archery, high ropes, yoga, meditation, crafting, canoeing or even booking a massage! The weekend takes place from Friday September 20-Sunday September 22. Contact Amanda Silk (canoecreature@gmail.com, 705-492-9499) or visit the website for more information and to register. (<https://www.ilovecamp.org/womens-wellness-weekend>)

Trinity Families

Trinity Families is an all-inclusive, group aimed at encouraging togetherness, friendship, and fun. We would love to welcome you to any of our events or outings. Our mission is to provide fun for the whole Trinity family (Seniors, Adults, Youth, Children) Some of our past activities have included movie nights, camping trips, and berry picking. We've participated in the Santa Claus Parade, gone on outings to the pumpkin patch at Leisure Farms, and we have a Winter Retreat each year at Spirit Point in Trout Creek.

We even schedule some events just for the grownups, like game nights and paint nights. A Family Day weekend retreat and an Easter Messy Church are planned for 2025.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT TRINITY

- ◆ Sunday School Christmas Pageant – Coming in December (rehearsals begin in November)
- ◆ Mustard Seed Theatre – Spring 2025
- ◆ Youth Group – Youth Group will be starting back up in September. Ask to join the contact list – all youth in Grade 7 and up are welcome.

Upcoming events include: A fall Youth (and Confirmation Retreat), Bob Ross Rocks Paint Night, Unpacking Christmas (and packing Christmas bags for community groups), Christmas Cookie Walk Baking, Epiphany Party and more!

Sunday School Report

This past year was a fun and exciting Sunday School year. We have consistently had 15 to 20 children and teenagers attend Sunday school, allowing us to divide them into groups and better focus programming for their respective age groups and still have older helpers mentor the younger children.

Sunday school is for children, ages 4-13 (Kindergarten to Gr.7). Teenagers are welcome to help and earn valuable leadership skills and volunteer hours while children under 4 are able to visit our caregivers in the nursery,

This year's theme is "Go with God" where we will explore stories such as Joseph and his coat of many colours, the journey of Moses into the desert, Ruth and Naomi, and more. Stories will be focused around journeys and the ways we find God in times of change. Children will learn these stories through science, arts & crafts, cooking, songs, games and storytelling.

TEACHERS NEEDED!

Would you be willing to dedicate ONE Sunday to share your time with our youth??? While it is wonderful to have so many children, we cannot have a Sunday School Program without teachers. In past years, we had a large pool of teachers so that none of our teachers needed to volunteer more than 3 Sundays in the year. Since COVID, our pool has dropped to a handful of dedicated people who now must balance their desire to maintain a rich Sunday School experience with their need to attend Service and nurture their personal spiritual growth.

You don't need any teaching experience as all lessons are prepared by our Faith Formation and Outreach Minister, Lisa Blais. All activities and supplies are provided. We also do our best to pair people up with activities they enjoy. Do you like to cook or bake? We will try to find you a baking lesson. Games? Stories? We highly encourage anyone to come down and attend the program or shadow a teacher. If you have any questions, speake with Lisa Blais or Marcel MacDonald.

Marcel MacDonald
Sunday School Superintendent

... from the Apple Pie Lady

With summer still here, it is hard to imagine that Apple Pie season will soon be upon us. Please make note of the following dates and plan to help out where you can. We need as many people as possible so invite your friends to join in the fun. There are jobs for everyone. Don't feel obliged to stay for the whole time period. If you can only volunteer an hour or two, that is also appreciated.

Tuesday September 3, 9:00-12:30; spice bags and dry pastry
Wednesday September 4, 9:00-12:30; spice bags and dry pastry
Thursday September 5, 9:00-12:30; spice bags and dry pastry (if needed)

Monday September 9, 9:00-12:30; pie bottoms
Tuesday September 10, 9:00-12:30; pie bottoms
Wednesday September 11, 9:00-12:30; pie bottoms (if needed)

Saturday October 5, pick apples. Please call Dave McKenney at (705) 474-7847
Sunday October 6, wash apples after church 12:00-3:00

Monday October 7, 9:00-12:30; assemble pies
Tuesday October 8, 9:00-12:30; assemble pies
Tuesday October 8, 6:30-8:30; assemble pies
Wednesday October 9, 9:00-12:30; assemble pies
Thursday October 10, 9:00-12:30; assemble pies

Please call me if you have any questions. Pies can be ordered by filling out the order form and returning it to the office. The pies will cost \$15 and of course, we are only making 1000 pies!

Darlene Laferriere
(705) 474-7847

SEP 16

"A PAGE-TURNING MASTERPIECE! IT IS A RARE BOOK THAT CAN ENTERTAIN, ILLUMINATE, AND STRIKE AT THE HEART; ROD CARLEY ACCOMPLISHES JUST THAT. METICULOUSLY RESEARCHED, RUFF IS AN HISTORICAL NOVEL WITH IMPORTANT MODERN SIGNIFICANCE. THE DIALOGUE IS SOME OF THE BEST I HAVE EVER READ!"

-HEIDI VON PALLESKE, Author of Two White Queens and the One-Eyed Jack.

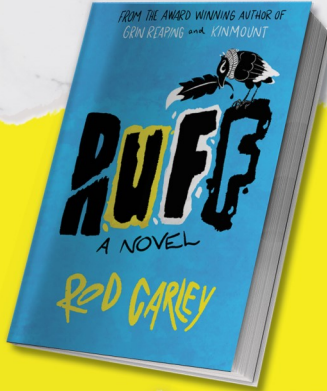


ROD CARLEY

IN CONVERSATION WITH HEIDI VON PALLESKE.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

David Fox Stage G-Wing, Canadore College 100 College Drive, North Bay



Sponsored by: ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

LATITUDE 46 PUBLISHING

Monday September 16th , 7pm-9pm you're welcome at a Book Launch for our own Rod Carley's latest novel, "Ruff!" at the David Fox Theatre of Canadore College (100 College Dr.)

Rally Back Celebrations

On Sunday September 8th we will enjoy "Rally Back" Sunday. Our regular 10:30am worship will kick off a new season of Sunday School. Bring your work or school bag for a "Blessing of the Backpacks"! In the afternoon, we'll gather at 2pm for a sunny Rally Day Pot Luck Picnic at beautiful Camp Tillicum, which will feature fun family games for all ages, and a potluck picnic. Special thanks to the attentive sponsorship of the Trinity AOTS Men's Group!

Poster courtesy of Michelle Johnson

RALLY BACK CHURCH PICNIC

WHEN & WHERE?

Sunday September 8th at 2 pm on the shores of Lake Nipissing at Camp Tillicum - Rain or Shine!



WHAT TO BRING

Please bring a lawn chair, utensils, plates, cups, and your potluck appetizer or salad item. Sandwich items (meat, cheese, buns, etc.) and icecream bars will be supplied.

WHAT ACTIVITIES?



We will eat outside (weather permitting) - so please bring a sturdy plate! The day will include all ages games and will conclude with a vespers service.

All are welcome - feel free to bring a friend! Hope to see you there! Directions to Camp Tillicum are available by request.

For more information contact Lisa Blais at blais.trinity@gmail.com

The Trinity Testosterone Men's Canoe Adventure, 2024

The "Trinity Testosterone Tradition" continued this past June, when 16 Trinity guys joyfully braved the wind, rain, and *buggy portages* of the Kukagami region-- enjoying God's creation, meaningful worship, hard work, deepened friendships, and great great food! Particular thanks to Dave McKenney for his culinary dedication! This year we began the "Trinity Testosterone Scholarship Program," and we hope to sponsor other new Canadians in the future for what is often the first canoe trip of their lives! Next year's spots will be cherished and limited, as usual! Sign-up, as always, will begin on Easter weekend for a trip that traditionally takes place near or on the summer solstice!

Upcoming Dates: Get them on your Calendar!

- ◆ September 3,4,5: Trinity Apple Pies: dry pastry and spice bags
- ◆ Sunday September 8th **Rally Day Service**, plus 2pm **Afternoon Picnic**
- ◆ Bring your work or school bag to church for a "**Blessing of the Backpacks**"!
- ◆ September 9, 10, 11: Trinity Apple Pies: Pie Bottom assembly
- ◆ Monday September 16th , 7pm-9pm you're welcome at a **Book Launch** for our own Rod Carley's latest novel, "**Ruff!**" at the David Fox Theatre of Canadore College (100 College Dr)
- ◆ The **Harry Ricker Collection** (Ricker is a famed member of Trinity, our "St. Francis" stained glass is in his memory!) will be on display throughout the month of September (weekdays 8:30am-4:30pm) at the NUSU Reflection Gallery (221 College Dr). A reception will be held on Friday, September 20th, 4-7pm to meet the Ricker family. The collection is curated by Trinity's own Professor Kurt Claussen.
- ◆ Sunday September 22nd: **Saint Francis Sunday** (you're welcome to bring a friendly live pet, or an animal memento or photo, or a "stuffie" to church for a blessing!)
- ◆ Sunday September 29th : This "Fifth Sunday of the Month" All of North Bay's United Churches worship together with Carmichael United Church!!
- ◆ Saturday October 5th: Trinity Apple Pies: Apple Picking Day!
- ◆ Sunday October 6th: World-Wide **Communion** Sunday. Apple washing after church!
- ◆ October 7, 8, 9, 10: Trinity Apple Pies: Assembling and distributing the pies!
- ◆ Sunday October 13th: **Thanksgiving Sunday** and **Baptism Sunday** (families interested in baptism on this Sunday should be in touch with the Trinity office ASAP!)
- ◆ Sunday October 20th : Stewardship Sunday: "Celebrate How You Give Back!"
- ◆ Sunday October 27th : Feel free to wear your **Hallowe'en** costume to church!
- ◆ Saturday November 9th: UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar
- ◆ Sunday November 10th : **Remembrance Sunday**
- ◆ Sunday November 24th: AOTS Sunday
- ◆ Sunday December 1st: First Sunday in Advent. **Communion Service**.