

The Dragonfly

Tenth Edition | June 2021

We are Trinity...called to be an inspiring, Spirit-filled community, reaching out to all and welcoming diversity.

Trinity United Church
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**Notice of the
Trinity United Church
Congregational Meeting
- Sunday, June 13, 2021 -
at 11:30 am via Zoom**

~ A special issue ~
focusing on
Outreach and
Mission & Service

- From the Minister
- Outreach Team
- Silent Auction
- Refugee update
- Therapeutic Touch
- Little Free Pantry
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From the Minister

It's the May 24th weekend as I sit down to write my article for our June edition of the Dragonfly. I was happy to see tennis courts come back to life as we slowly tip toe our way back to an increasingly more open and more social world. There's a renewed but cautious sense of optimism bubbling up.... even the news stories are more positive these days with reduced cases and increased rates of vaccinations. The finish line for this most recent lockdown is clearly in reach.

This edition of the Dragonfly is highlighting how we are called to live in faith offering compassion and hope to those we encounter. This means sharing our gifts with our partners and ministries of Mission and Service. Following the way of Jesus is two fold - giving locally and beyond our community. There is not a single facet of life this United Church fund does not touch - from the basics of shelter, food and water - to helping young mothers, migrant workers, supporting summer camps like Camp Big Canoe, supporting men and women who decide to go into formal ministry, helping grandmothers in Africa change and transform lives, bringing medical help to those who are living on the margins of society. This pandemic has highlighted the needs of vulnerable people more than ever. Let's remember miracles happen when we share our simple gifts with others.

June 1st marks our four-month anniversary together. Spring is bursting forth all around and those yellow dandelion flowers are giving homeowners a run for their money!

During this time, I have focused my energies on getting to know you and Trinity's story. There have been plenty of telephone calls, emails and even hand-written notes going back and forth. Thank you for sharing your stories with me. I look forward to meeting you all in person one day soon. In our modern-day Romper Room on Zoom.... I see Will, I see Joanne - or there's Nancy... I see Judy tuning in from the church... and yes, there's Julie.... Seriously, our weekly Mug Ups have made for a time of warm and friendly connection and has renewed our sense of community even though we have been physically separated.

Cont'd pg. 2

Outreach in our Community

The Outreach Team continues to give \$100.00 a month to the Salvation Army food program. They also organized Sunday, May 30th's Camp Big Canoe Service. Many thanks to Ian McTavish and Jennifer Near for their input and video presentation.

Trinity's 2021 Silent Auction

Shirley Woodard's Homemade Cherry Cheesecake and the happy top bidder – Rev. Diane!



A BIG THANK YOU to all the auction organizers, donors and bidders for a very successful Trinity Silent Auction raising over \$4200!

Cont'd from pg. 1

Facial recognition has been great for me - I can actually see people without their masks. In an attempt to try and reach people who may not have had a lot of experience with the church - I began another circle called Soul Matters. It ran for four weeks. I wanted to gauge the temperature of the water and see if this is something we could follow up with in the fall. Both groups focused on a full range of topics and a wide diversity of opinions. It was also nice to see several young adults showing up for Soul Matters on Monday evenings.

Our Sunday morning services have seen us splashing around in the deep end of online church as we all are coming to church in our own digital spaces. For sure, this has its perks including coffee and bed-head! By many accounts people like the flexibility of being able to "go to church" at other times of the week if they can't make Sunday morning. This entry into online services has been welcomed by those who otherwise would not be able to attend church in person. A huge thank you to Alastair Dunlop and Kyung-A Lee who have worked hand in hand with me creating our Sunday morning services. They are the A team to be sure! So grateful for our soloists and scripture readers who have not only come into church to sing and read but have also learned how to do church in our digital spaces. Bravo! And of course, we cannot forget our first ever online COVID Quintet. Thank you too. While we are grateful for the magic of the internet keeping us connected online - nothing can take the place of being together under the same roof singing, praying, meditating, hugging and drinking tea together!

I am looking forward to the day when we can throw the doors of the church wide open and do all these things again. It will be a glorious day of celebration!

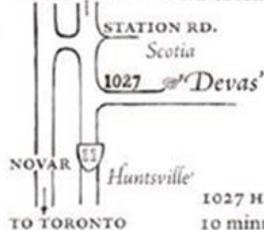
Until that time, let's lean into our future with curiosity and open hearts. Let us thirst to become better humans and then, with Spirit's help, go out into the world and love it back to health. Supporting our M&S Fund is just one of many ways of doing just that!

Faithfully yours, Rev. Diane

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Update from Carole Walsh

on the Syrian Family that Trinity sponsored
Hello my Trinity family from Kingston. When I left Huntsville my well-thought-out plan was to return once a month. We know how that has worked out.

Anyway, I enjoy all the exciting news that I receive about Trinity and look forward to all the updates.

Well....I have an update for you. And an exciting one at that!

As you know Jamal and his family moved from Huntsville to Ottawa to be close to other Syrian families that they know. It has been a positive move and they now have two little Canadian girls to add to their number.

The most exciting news (for me at least) is that they are moving to Kingston this summer. Jamal and two of his friends are opening an Arab grocery store that will carry halal meat and a large selection of items for the Syrian families living in the Kingston area. Jamal is very excited, Faiza is somewhat excited, and the children are concerned about leaving their friends.

I know from experience that Kingston is a welcoming city and the family will soon learn to love it.

The fun for me will be holding a beautiful little baby! (And of course, seeing the whole family again.)

This is a summary of the children and their future dreams: Muhammad is 15 years old - chemical engineering. Ali is 14 years old - computer engineering. Aatedal is 12 years old - a hairdresser. Tabarak is ten years old - a lawyer. Ahmed is six years old - a football player. Jody is two years old and Sedra is two months old.

Thank you again to those who gave so much support to the family. Well done!





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Therapeutic Touch (TT) is alive and well at Trinity and Trinity friends are receiving long distance Therapeutic Touch sessions during these covid-restricting times for a variety of reasons – injury, bereavement, anxiety, insomnia...

Therapeutic Touch calms and promotes relaxation putting your body in the best possible state to do its own healing. It accelerates the healing process, helps reduce pain sensation and leaves you with an enhanced feeling of well-being.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from a free Therapeutic Touch session as part of Trinity's Outreach, or if you'd like a TT session yourself, please contact Shirley Boon 705-784-0969 or shirleyboon@surenet.net and we will arrange for that to happen.

During covid restrictions, these sessions will be by long distance but may be in person, if desired, once the restrictions are lifted. Stay well.

Peace and Love, Shirley Boon, Recognized Teacher and Practitioner with the Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario



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"Proud members of Trinity"

Little Free Pantry

The Rotary Club of Huntsville has donated a "Little Free Pantry" to Trinity. Jessica McClard launched the grassroots mini pantry movement on May 2016 in Fayetteville, AR, when she planted the Little Free Pantry Pilot, a wooden box on a post containing food, personal care, and paper items accessible to everyone, all the time, no questions asked.

She hoped her spin on the Little Free Library concept would pique local awareness of food insecurity while creating a space for neighbors to help meet neighborhood food needs.

Our plan is to place this outside the back door of Trinity Hall and stock it with donations from our Church Family and others in the community as an Outreach project. Generally, canned vegetables and proteins, personal care items, and paper goods go fast. Kid-friendly non-perishables, crayons, and inexpensive party favor items are great for summer ...school supplies for August!



The Trinity Button

Once all these lockdowns are over and we are out in the community again, wearing a button identifying us as a member of Trinity United Church offers us a chance to talk to people about our Church. Often times people may ask "what is that button you are wearing" and it gives us the opportunity to tell the Trinity story. Just think if every member wore their Trinity button every day, the number of conversations about Trinity that could happen daily.

What would that do for membership growth? How much more could we accomplish as a Church? So it is up to you. Do you want to keep Trinity a secret or do you want to tell people about Trinity? Our plan is to have these buttons available at the church when we are able to meet in person again.

Will Gibson




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UCW Mother's Day Tribute

As Mother's Day 2021 approached, the members of Trinity UCW decided that we would make individual donations to Mission and Service in memory of our mothers. It was our mothers after all, who, by their example, instilled in us the desire to participate in what was traditionally considered "women's work" in the church and probably still is, although now we sometimes allow the men into the kitchen to help!

The connection between UCW and Mission and Service goes back a long way. Originally the United Church had two women's organizations: the WA (Woman's Association) whose members focused on helping the local congregation and WMS (Women's Missionary Society) whose members raised funds for the United Church's outreach work in Canada and abroad. Some women belonged to both organizations. In 1962 these two groups amalgamated to become the United Church Women with

an understanding that UCW would carry on the work of the two original groups. Having been members of one or both of the WA and WMS, many of our mothers were charter members of the UCW.

At Trinity, we have continued to support both aspects of the work of UCW. Each year our UCW has budgeted a dollar amount for Mission and Service which works out to be between 30 and 35% of the proceeds of our fundraising projects. Of course, since March 2020, we have been able to do very little of the fundraising we are used to doing. In 2021 we have not sent in any money to M&S. So, this Mother's Day Appeal seemed just the ticket!

We raised \$650 for M&S which our treasurer, Shirley Woodard, will be sending to the United Church of Canada. By our gifts we are supporting M&S partners at home and abroad providing things like prenatal and parenting classes, respite care,

Julie Brushey

medical clinics, safe shelter and education for children.

Here are the names of our Moms, our mentors:

Thelma Harriet McCleary

Edythe Elaine Scriver

Agnes Bain

Edith Violet Andersen

Elsie Madge Punchard

Alma Immel

Mary Elizabeth Louise Rose

Harriet May Holland

Irene Brown

Sarah Alice Lorena Scobie

Vera Ethel Dupre

Hazel McEwen

Agnes Griffin

Dorothy Woodard (mother-in-law)

Also, Nancy Woodard made a donation to M&S as a Mother's Day gift to her mom, Shirley, who is very much alive and well!

We will be looking for other ways to support M&S as the year progresses.



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Your Generosity Matters

"Your Generosity Matters" is the title of the 2021 Mission and Service stories. Your gift to Mission and Service matters to people everywhere, in Canada and in many countries all over this wonderful world we live in.

Mission and Service share our resources with 3 goals in mind:

- To transform and save lives
- To inspire meaning and purpose
- To build a better world

In Canada

- Support homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens and refugee programs;
- Support Theological schools and educational centres;
- Support events that promote spiritual development and personal reflection.

Globally

- To help access clean water, food and medical care;
- Support skills training and economic development;
- Help with peacemaking and sustainable agriculture efforts;
- Provide disaster relief;
- Support church organizations that work with theological schools;
- Support places that offer practical training in agriculture and health.



It's a win-win. The United Church of Canada trusts that when people are in tune with their meaning and purpose they will naturally want to donate and change lives and make the world a better place.

Trinity's Outreach Team

From the Chair of Trinity's Board of Directors – Will Gibson

At our Congregational Annual Meeting in February, the Board of Directors committed to revisit the Mission & Service contribution question in June.

The Board made an appeal to the congregation for contributions to M&S at Easter, knowing that the results would help us to understand how widespread the congregation's support is currently. This appeal brought in \$3,775, a significant amount, however this was contributed by only 27 donors (18% of identifiable givers to Trinity). Ten of these were Board Members or Team Leaders and 17 being other church supporters. Handwritten thank-you notes were sent to the contributors.

To-date (January to the end May), Trinity has donated \$6046.00 to M&S which is made up of the amount raised in the Easter Appeal, and also donated by individuals through PAR and envelope givings. Keep up the good work!

Julie Brushey has been in touch with Rev. David Jagger, the Stewardship and Gifts Officer for Shining Waters Regional Council, who was asked what we could do as a congregation to support M&S.

David advised:

- Some congregations provide a fixed percentage of their budget to M&S, usually about 10%. This method is easy to administer but after the budget is set, few people think about M&S. People are not engaged; it is just another line in the budget.
- Some congregations set a monetary goal and plan how to achieve it.

- Some congregations set a goal and invite participation, but if the goal is not met, the amount raised is topped up with congregational funds if those are available.
- Individual gifts are encouraged from those who are passionate about M&S.

David Jagger was emphatic that every congregation needs to have a point person to promote, encourage, invite, inspire and thank all those who support M&S.

There is a new booklet available 'Your Generosity Matters' as well as YouTube video clips for use as promotional support by congregations.

At this time the Board is recommending that we set a goal of \$10,000 as Trinity's contribution to M&S for 2021.

We will support the goal by including "Your Generosity Matters" videos in the on-line services.

Passionate M&S supporters would promote M&S contributions in various formats throughout the year.

A Thanksgiving appeal would be conducted in October.

As well the Board would ask the Stewardship Team to organise an M&S fundraising event in the fall, if and when we are able to gather in the church.

By giving to Mission & Service, we at Trinity join with other United Church communities:

'helping to transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world.'



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