

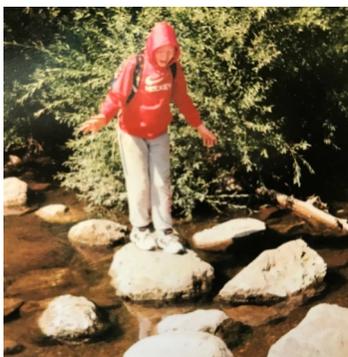
ROOTS & SPROUTS

Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ

Sept. 2022

Summertime Fun

In this edition of R & S you will find lots of photos of the fabulous times our youth had over the summer.



Mission

To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world

Bedrock Beliefs

Through Jesus Christ our Savior, we believe:

God's Love: Unconditional

God's Power: Miraculous

God's Vision: Peace

God's Grace: Forgiveness

God's Assurance: Hope

God's Ways: Mysterious

God's Help Line: Prayer

God's Promise:

We Are Not Alone

God's Hands: Us!

Core Values

Offer friendship and fellowship to all

Joyfully engage in regular spiritual practice

Uphold honesty and integrity

Reach out and serve others with kindness

Care for the earth and all creation

Give generously of our time and talent

Seek and give forgiveness

Embrace diversity

Speak out for justice

Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ

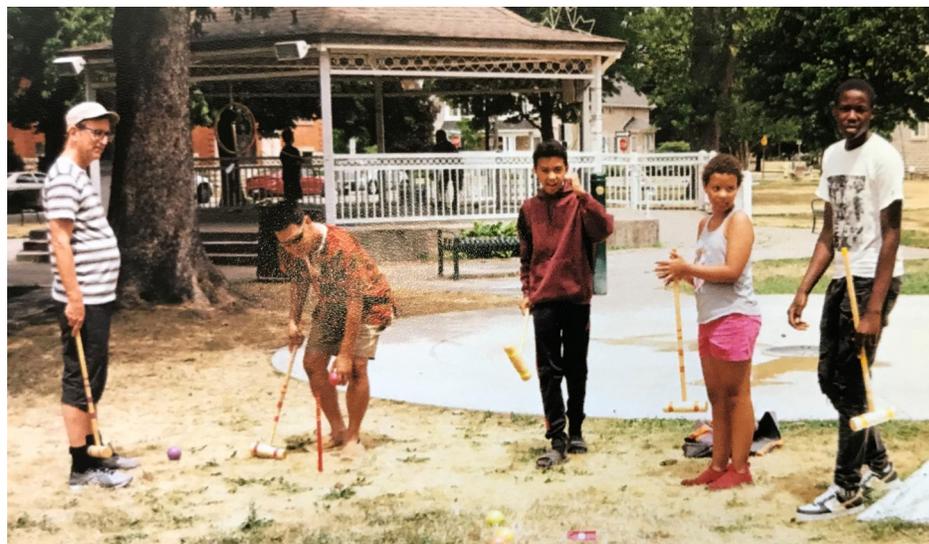


Over the past several months the youth dropped off grocery bags and the community filled them. There were three food drives in three different neighbourhoods around Trillium. In April they collected 350 lbs of food, in July they collected another 312 lbs. and on Aug. 27 the youth picked up another 208 lbs. of food. Thanks to the community, our youth and our volunteers who helped make this possible.

We will be doing a Thanksgiving drive and invite all church congregants to participate as we drop off empty bags to 150 homes and then pick them up when filled.



Trillium's Potluck Picnic was a hit. Everyone had a fabulous time!



NOTICES/UPDATES

We wish all of those with birthdays in September a most blessed celebration.

Membership Committee



Please Note: We enjoy snacks after Sunday Service. We would love to have you join us.

TIME, Talent & Treasure Auction

The Handy Bryans & Sams & Daves

Indoor or Outdoor Help at your Home

"God gave us time, talent and treasure and asked us to share them."

We will help move your furniture, down-size, do yard work, clean or paint! Try us out!

Minimum Bid/ Donation: \$10 Per hour / Per helper

Contact: Brian Hershey 519-658-6405



Blessing Bag Ministry

Help! Our Blessing Bags need your continued support.



A big **THANK YOU** for all the donations to the Blessing Bags.

As we move into the fall, warmer hats, gloves & new socks are always a favourite. We continue to require travel-sized personal hygiene items, lip balm, conditioner, protein bars, individual packages of raisins, nuts or cookies along

with crackers, bandages, wipes, and hand sanitizer to fill the bags.

Please take some bags and hand them out.

God Bless, bch (Brian Hershey)

4th Annual Pet Blessing

At Trillium United Church
Sunday, Oct.2, 2022
1pm

On the lawn at King St.
and Waterloo St.

All pets and people are welcome.



Congratulations to Jim and Shirley Potts on their 62nd wedding anniversary celebrated on Saturday August 20, 2022.

Jim and Shirley were married in the Listowel Presbyterian Church in Listowel. They spent a week away on honeymoon on a road trip out to the Maritimes and back in Shirley's Volkswagen Beetle! On their return the newlyweds set up home in Cambridge on Langs Drive. Shirley was already working as an RN at Cambridge Memorial Hospital and Jim started his teaching career in September of 1960.



Thank you to our talented pie makers, what a fabulous group of volunteers!

Get your homemade beef and turkey pies for the same low price of \$5.00.

Call the office to get yours.





Trillium's youth had a fun time mini golfing in August.



On June 21 the Knotters and friends had a birthday picnic at Riverside park. They celebrated the birthdays of three special friends: Sandra, Earlene and Joanne. They had a great time together with lots of good food and delicious birthday cake.



Happy 90+ Birthday

Sunday, Sept. 4, we celebrated our seniors who have reached their 90+ birthdays this year. They wore their pins that Sheila M. made for them so everyone would know who they were. The youth served the seniors which was very kind. There were many friends and family to join in the festivities.



Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ



Alexis was one of the lucky young people to have a bird feed from her hand.



Our youth enjoyed their time at Grand River United Church: Learning About the Strawberry from the Elders.

They had fun at the Brantford Zoo. Laser tag was a great way to spend time together.

The birding trip was enjoyable and being able to connect with nature was relaxing.

So many fun adventures were had this summer!

Thanks to all the organizers and participants.



Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ



Stone Church Books



September is Research Month in the Bookstore

Bookstore hours are changing back to our fall and winter schedule on Sept 11. We will open at 12:00 noon on Sundays.

Through the month of September we will be keeping track of the number of customers that visit the store and numbers of visitors on our social media accounts. We will also be testing some Saturday morning hours to see if we have more customers.

Our goal is to serve the community the best that we can by providing new titles every week and being accessible with hours that most people can visit.

We are receiving some new donations this week and will be processing and pricing new books Wednesday mornings. Volunteers to help with this work are always welcome.



@trillium 

Join Us For BGC

Friday, Sept. 23

7:30 - 11:30 pm

\$5 Admission for UNLIMITED play

Trillium's Outreach Planning Project – Update

This project aimed to identify priority needs in our community and discern one or more **outreach** programs or activities that Trillium can take on to address those priority needs.

At the end of June, the Outreach Planning Team concluded their efforts having identified priority needs as:

- Homeless or poorly housed
- Food security
- Social inclusion/ support – seniors, newcomers, families,
- Settlement support - Newcomers / Refugees
- Education



Based on consultations with thirty-eight Trillium members and Church Council in May and June, the project team identified **one outreach program** and **one outreach partnership**.

Proposed Outreach Program: Community Wellness

- This program would extend Trillium's Parish Nursing for Older Adults to the community surrounding Trillium.
- The focus will be on Older Adults (over age 60) with chronic health or mobility issues, lacking nearby family/relationships, economically vulnerable, or in precarious living arrangements.
- The Parish Nurse would provide one-to-one support and advocacy with issues such as managing health challenges, understanding medical reports/medical advice, hospitalization support, caregivers support, accessing community resources and spiritual/emotional challenges.
- Trillium would hold quarterly Wellness Events with lunch and speakers on health and safety information
- Trillium would host bi-monthly clinics offering affordable personal care services. E.g. foot care, hair cuts.
- This program will require volunteer commitments from Trillium members. **Thank you** to the eleven Trillium members who have already volunteered.

This program will go forward in 2023, contingent on grants from the United Church Foundation, or other granting sources. For more information, contact Ruth Thompson.

Proposed Outreach Partnership: *Mobile Food Market program, Cambridge Food Bank*

How the *Mobile Food Market* works:

- Each week, a Food Bank truck delivers food (fresh fruit, vegetables, sometimes protein foods like cheese and eggs) to the Mobile Food Market host location. There are seven in the city.
- Customers fill one bag with food. Cost to customers \$5 -\$15. (Actual cost is \$18+).
- Tables are outside except during inclement weather. Indoor space needed during winter.
- Volunteers (three to four) lay out food on tables and monitor food selections. One of the volunteers unloads food from the truck. One Food Bank staff is present.
- Food Bank purchases food from the Food Terminal or local farmers. Also welcomes donations from local farmers and gardeners.
- Clientele: Varied. Working poor, seniors, ODSP, but there is no needs test.

Options for how Trillium can be involved

A. Volunteers help at an existing Host Location

Preston Heights Neighbourhood Association location often struggles to find volunteers. The market runs Wednesday 1:00 to 2:00pm. Recommended to volunteer here to determine if Trillium would make a commitment to be a Host Location.

B. Trillium as a Host Location. Note: Currently there are seven Host Locations in Cambridge. The Food Bank cannot expand to Trillium until they have funding and staffing resources.

- Saturday morning or afternoon suggested to serve the working poor (existing sites are on week-days).
- Food Bank provides tables set up on lawn at the corner of King and Waterloo.
- In winter, food would be distributed from inside the church (sanctuary vestibule?)
- Need enough volunteers weekly. With enough volunteers, commitment is less.
- Need volunteer leader team to coordinate other volunteers.
- Option for Trillium to provide a prepared food item. (e.g. soup, muffins). Need volunteers with Safe Food Handling Certificate and Public Health needs to certify Trillium kitchen.

C. Sponsor a protein food at existing Host Location – cheese, eggs, meat

On June 26, fourteen Trillium members attended an information session on this proposed partnership. Ten of the members present indicated they would volunteer for the Mobile Food Market, starting with Option A. Please contact Brian Hershey about volunteering at Preston Heights on Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00pm.

Outreach Planning Team: Sheila Burtt, Sally White, Brian Hershey, Paul Pitcher, June Anderson (mentor), Ruth Thompson (chair).

Trillium United Church Building Security Procedures March 16, 2022

When any damage due to vandalism, break-in or water have compromised the building one of the members from the Building Security Team will be alerted.

Building Security Team

Chair(co-chairs) of Property – David Reed, Steve Jennings
Building Caretaker – Steve Vargas
Night Watchman – Doug Stuart

Building Security Procedure

1. Any person who discovers damage to the Trillium building is to immediately contact a member of the Building Security Team.
2. In the event that the damage to the building points to a potential break-in the person discovering it should leave the building immediately. This person should then contact a member of the Building Security Team. The full Building Security Team should be appraised of the situation at the earliest opportunity. Building Security Team (preferably two people) are to come to church to assess the damage and phone the police if necessary.
3. In the event that no Building Security Team member is available the Pastor or Chair of Council should be contacted.
4. Montessori school should be notified by a member of the Building Security Team if property damage or security in anyway affects their operations.
5. In the event of a break-in the Trillium building shall be immediately closed to visitors. A building closed sign will be posted on the Waterloo street office door. A notice of building closure shall be posted on the office door until it can be ascertained that the building is safe to move through.
6. A member of the Trillium Security Team will advise the Pastor at his/her earliest opportunity about a break-in or property damage who will in turn advise the CYMT Minister, Music Director and Office Administrator.
7. Office Administrator will advise Chair of Ministry & Personnel, Chair of Council and Montessori School (if necessary.) A general notice will be sent to the congregation through email or text if the Building Security Team judges the damage to the building as substantial or potentially injurious to use.
8. Office Administrator will check calendar and then advise any groups coming into the church that their use of the building may be affected.
9. A list of current Building Security Team members with contact information will be posted in visible locations in the church.
10. The Building Security Procedures will be promoted in the Roots & Sprouts for the remainder of 2022.
11. This procedure will be reviewed and updated when Building Security Team members are changed.

Miscellaneous Information

The Office Administrator is responsible for future updates and for storage of this document.
The Building Security Procedure will be included in the Policy and Procedure Manual for future reference.



Trillium United Church Urgent News Procedures March 16, 2022

When a congregant dies or tragedy strikes within the congregation the following steps will ensure everyone is brought up to date as quickly as possible. This will allow us to care for those in need swiftly.

Urgent News Team

An Urgent News Team will be created that will consist of the following people:

1. Pastor
2. CYMT Minister
3. Music Director
4. Office Administrator
5. Chair of Membership

Urgent News Procedure

1. Once news of a death or tragedy is brought to the attention of a member of the Urgent News Team this team member will contact the other members of the Urgent News Team and apprise them of what has happened. A Team member should be phoned to advise them so they can advise the other members.
2. The Pastor and Office Administrator will converse asap to decide the next steps of communication with the congregation.
3. The Office Administrator will create a template that can be used to announce the initial news of a person's death or congregational tragedy.
4. Office Administrator will send out a more comprehensive eNews to the congregation when new information becomes available and after consulting with other members of the Urgent News Team. The expectation is that this second announcement can wait for regular office hours.
5. Publicize and promote the existence of the Urgent News Team, on the first Friday of the month in the eWorship as well as in the Sunday Service and each issue of the Roots & Sprouts.
6. Urgent News Procedures will not be distinguished based on membership or involvement in Trillium but on the relevancy of the information being shared. This decision will be made by the Pastor and Office Administrator in most cases.
7. Urgent News is a supplement to news shared at Sunday morning services.
8. This procedure will be reviewed on a needs basis.

Miscellaneous Information

The Office Administrator is responsible for future updates and for storage of this document.
The Urgent News Procedures will be included in the Policy and Procedure Manual for future reference.



Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith in Film

For movie buffs who like spiritually significant films. Watch the film and talk about its messages in our faith journey.

Friday, September 16, 7:00pm, Trillium Sanctuary

Feature:

An Unfinished Life, PG-13, 2005

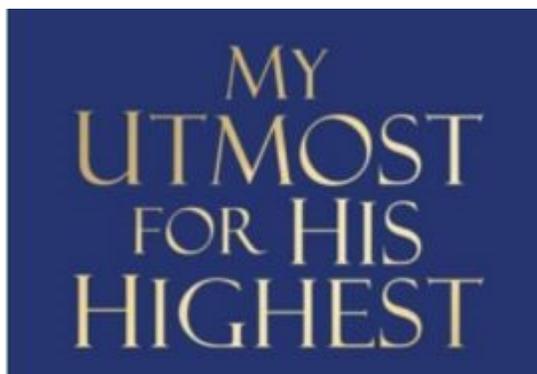


AN
UNFINISHED LIFE



Desperate to provide care for her daughter, down-on-her-luck Jean arrives unannounced to stay with her father-in-law from whom she is estranged. They share a tragic loss that haunts them both. Will they learn to forgive each other, and themselves?

ALL WELCOME! FREE!



Join us as we discuss and reflect upon the popular daily devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Thursday afternoons, 4:45pm to 5:45pm

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/120237085>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Canada: [+1 \(647\) 497-9373](tel:+16474979373)

My Utmost for His Highest

My Utmost for His Highest is a collection of the writings of Oswald Chambers made into a daily devotional. Group participants read and practice the daily devotions and then join once a week to discuss them. What makes My Utmost so powerful is its deep theological roots and the ability to lead the practitioner into a reflective walk with the Lord. Chambers has a rich understanding of God and keeps the focus of the Christian walk on Christ. My Utmost is relatively simple to jump into and has easy exit points. We meet on Thursdays at 4:45 pm for an hour. We connect by video so no driving is involved. For more information please contact Pastor Mark Rutledge at mark.w.rutledge@gmail.com

Christianity 101

We certainly live in a time of suspicion towards religion. Religious faith gets no free pass from the bigger culture. Today, Christians need to know what they believe and why they believe it in a more intentional way than previous generations. We also need to know how to articulate our faith in a way that others can hear and understand. Join Pastor Mark for a six week course on the basics of Christianity and the intellectual challenges that it faces in modern secular Canada. Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, October 26, November 2, 9, 23, 30 and December 7. If you'd like more information please contact Mark at mark.w.rutledge@gmail.com.

Trillium Drumming Choir

Drumming, like singing and dancing, is one the basic elements of human experience. There is something elemental when hand drumming with others. It can be quite exhilarating. Many people are a bit intimidated with rhythm instruments and wished they had more rhythm. That wait is over. We are forming a drumming group for youth and adults. We will be learning basic drumming traditions from West Africa. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Mark. We will be practicing together after church on many Sundays. Specific schedule to be determined.

Call as needed:

Earlene Peshnak 519-653-1553
Sheila Matthews 519-653-1286
Joanne Sarkisian 519-653-3955
Brian Hershey 519-658-6405
Sandra Daoust 519-219-0381
Harold Matthews 519-653-1286
Doug Stuart 519-653-0514



Interested in joining our team? Call one of our members for information.



Harold taking time to relax while waiting for Sheila to finish up her volunteering.

We will be holding an online auction this November to raise funds for the roof work. We need your help to secure some great items to auction off.

This is NOT a garage sale. We aren't asking you to clean out your basement.

We are asking you to reach out to your contacts and ask for donations of goods and services such as the following.

- Gift Cards/Certificates
- Cleaning services
- Dental services
- Gift baskets
- Hair salon services
- Automotive services

Alternatively, you may wish to purchase and donate goods or gift cards/certificates yourself. You may also wish to build a gift basket and donate it.

Perhaps you are an experienced baker and would like to give some baking lessons.

Or you do scrapbooking and would like to help someone put together a scrapbook for a special event.

The deadline to have auction items secured is October 15th, but the earlier the better so we have time to put them on the online auction website.

We already have a few items and are excited to see what this online auction can raise!

The Trillium Generosity Team

Mark, Pam and Karen



November 2022



Once you have goods or services secured, please contact Pam or Karen at the email address/phone number below with what the good or service is.

We will also send you a form to fill in with all the details of the donation.

Pam pamela.noel@rogers.com 519-841-7738

Karen comet.karen@gmail.com

For this to be a success, we will need to promote the online auction within and outside of Trillium. Think about your friends outside Trillium and Cambridge that might be interested in supporting us by reviewing our items online. Share the online auction site with them and encourage them to make a bid or two.

The more people that get engaged the greater the success we will have. Thanks for your support. More details to follow!

Social Concerns & Outreach

Mission & Service Story “We are grateful for any kind of help.”



Aid workers load boxes of relief supplies onto pallets outdoors. Hungarian Interchurch Aid distributes relief supplies in Ukraine.

Credit: ACT Alliance/HIA

Primary Media

During peaceful times Kharkiv has a population of 1.5 million people—larger than Calgary and just a bit smaller than Montreal. But since the Russian invasion in February, half of those people have fled the city for safer places. Those who are still in Kharkiv are the people who can't leave because they have nowhere to go, because they're unable to travel, or because they're taking care of others who must stay.

Grocery stores in Kharkiv are closed, public transit has stopped running, there is no electricity or running water, and many roads and buildings are unsafe. Although the daily Russian air raids have ended there are still intermittent rocket attacks and people still spend time in shelters. Add to this the fact that most people who are still there live in poverty or are disabled, and it's clear that those who are left in Kharkiv are the ones least able to survive without help.

ACT Alliance member Hungarian Interchurch Aid has recently been able to bring relief shipments to volunteers in Kharkiv, like Sergei Babin. Babin and his team are providing those who are unable to leave the city with food and other items they need.

“We are grateful for any kind of help, as the people of Kharkiv have been suffering from this serious humanitarian crisis for many weeks now,” he says.

Providing emergency food and hygiene kits is one way your generous support of Mission & Service partners is helping support Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you for your compassion.

Submitted by SC&O

The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne Elected as the 44th Moderator of the United Church of Canada

A unique and historic service filled with joy, song, and moving reflection.



(Collage of images from the installation service of the 44th moderator)
Credit: The United Church of Canada
Published On: August 8, 2022

In a service brimming with joy, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Kwisa'lakw was installed as the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada. Held on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, the service was live streamed across the country with over 500 people watching.

Attended by hereditary chiefs, including from Moderator Lansdowne's own Heiltsuk Nation, as well as by national, regional, ecumenical, and interfaith guests, the worship marked a series of historic firsts. Moderator Lansdowne is the first Indigenous woman to lead The United Church of Canada. Hosted at Canadian Memorial United, the installation was the first to be held in a specific community of faith, rather than at a General Council venue. Through a stirring commemoration led by Vanessa Richards, it was the first official marking by the denomination of Emancipation Sunday.

Led by the Rev. Graham Brownmiller, Chair of the GC44 Worship Team, and Rev. Beth Hayward, Minister of Canadian Memorial, the worship moved between languages, with prayer, song, and scripture offered, including in French, Heiltsuk, Gitxan, and Cree. Woven in this tapestry, and led by the 43rd Moderator Richard Bott and General Secretary Michael Blair, were commitments made by and to the new Moderator. The service also included the laying on of hands by representative leaders and Elders and the presentation of gifts from Rev. Lansdowne's nation and the Indigenous Church, as well as the traditional stole, Bible, and talking stick.

In her moving reflection, Moderator Lansdowne spoke of her own experience and understanding of Jesus, and challenged the church to embrace a radical commitment to listen to oppressed communities. Speaking poignantly of the "unfinished business" to which the church must attend, she urged the denomination to make thoughtful choices, ones that lead to healing for marginalized communities and for the Earth itself. Pressing the church to be brave, she called for "deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice," a practice "that won't be safe but it can be good."

Close to the end of the service, a series of persons important in the life of Moderator Lansdowne and her family were gifted blankets by her mother, Dolly Lansdowne, Aunt Brenda Humchitt, and Honoured Elder Elenor Thompson. Hereditary Chiefs, including Heiltsuk Chief Harvey Humchitt, invited the church and gathered community to continue in the work towards reconciliation. Chief Dr. Robert Joseph began a tender chorus of "How Great Thou Art" which brought the congregation to its feet, joining him in song. Moderator Lansdowne led the procession from the church accompanied in Heiltsuk song and drum.

Get To Know Pauline Duchesne (Demelo)



I have been involved with Trillium for the past 13 years. I began as the office administrator in 2009 - 2014. I now volunteer in many areas of the church. I have been involved with the music ministry team on and off for about 11 years including band and choir. I am the chair of the Ministry and Personnel committee. Most recently, I have become involved in the Audio Visual aspects of the church. I am very passionate about our Livestreaming and how it is presented. I have been working closely with Mickie (my youngest child and the leader of the Livestreaming), Mark, and the Tech Team to learn new programs and teach others. I love to see the finished product of the service. I mostly love to see the sense of accomplishment on the other volunteer's faces as they work together to create another successful service.

I find volunteer work to be very fulfilling, and it is an important part of my life. I also volunteer with the Cambridge Speed Skating Club. I am the Bingo coordinator and help with marketing and communication.

As I return to school for my Bachelor of Social Work Degree, I will be working in a placement position at St. Luke's Place where I will practice my skills needed for social work.

All of these volunteer jobs are very different. Each one offers me an opportunity to learn new skills and apply my knowledge. I am grateful for these opportunities as they each enrich my life exponentially.

*Are you a good cook? **I am a good cook. I like to cook for others and see them enjoy my creations!***

*Do you collect anything? **My kids will tell you I collect far too much yarn and way too many music books.***

*Do you have any phobias? **No***

*Favourite Place to go? **I have many - anywhere I can play music, my garden, and kayaking***

*Have you ever had braces? **yes***

*Have you ever lived in another country? **No***

*Have you ever won an award or trophy—what for? **No***

*If you could go back in time to a specific era and place—when and where? **I would go back to piano lessons and really try to learn.***

*If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be? **I couldn't do it - I would be so bored***

*Is there a food you will not eat? **Sushi - i have tried it but - nope!***

*Last gift you gave someone? **I gave my sister a gift card for dinner for her birthday***

*Next trip you would like to take? **I would like to go back to Cuba - I want to spend time in the jazz clubs of Havana***

*Tell us something about yourself no one knows. **I always dreamed of making music my career - I wanted to be a Broadway actor or sing Jazz in a lounge - for as long as I can remember***

*What did you have for breakfast? **I am over 50 now so - bran cereal!***

*What is the worst injury you have ever had? **Post traumatic stress disorder***

*What sports or extra-curricular activities do you enjoy? **Kayaking, biking, hiking, singing, snowshoeing, reading***

*What time is your alarm clock set for? **I will have it set for 6am for the next 10 months***

*What is your favourite day of the week? **I have 7 if all is well***

*Give me the names of three objects or things you love and why. **My ukuleles - music is my medicine, my kayaks - to put me in the calming healing waters, My pets - they keep me feeling warm and safe***

*Did you play sports in high school? **No***

*Do you floss your teeth every day? **do Good intentions count?***

*Have you ever gone camping? **Love it***

*If you could invite any three people to dinner who would they be? **Ella Fitzgerald, Odetta, and Louis Armstrong***

*What is your favourite kind of ice cream? **there are too many to choose from - I like black cherry, anything caramel, and chocolate and***

*Can you sing? **A little? (wink)***

*Have you ever been to an opera? **Yes as long as sleeping through it counts!***

*Do you prefer travel alone, with your family or friends? **I prefer to travel with others***

*What is your longest vacation? **A trip to the East Coast in 2015 it took 11 days***

*Have you ever driven across country? **Only half way to the East Coast and back***

Parish Nurse Update

To my Trillium family,

I am so touched by the beautiful card filled with kind messages from you all!

I was one of 6 parish nurse candidates who have now successfully completed the preparation and have received the Certificate in Parish Nurse Ministry from St Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario.

In the photo of our graduation below Louise, Elsie and Debbie have been our course co-ordinators. Emily (Sudbury), Piper (St Andrews, New Brunswick), Mary (Ancaster), Lily (Hamilton) and Catherine (Winnipeg) joined me in graduating on Sunday.

I am so blessed to have the support of my church family and I look forward to continuing to serve you.

May our health ministry at Trillium be richly blessed.

Sally White



Parish Nurse Ministry

Sally White RN

Trillium office phone number: 519-653-6601 Ext 4

trilliumparishnurse@gmail.com



Heather's Hunches



Welcome to September! A season of firsts, new paths, and wonderful changes. In Ecclesiastes 3, it says, "For everything there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven." Some of you may be starting a new job, a new school, or a new grade with a new teacher. There may be others who are facing a new change in health, the place they live, or are experiencing a time of searching and pondering. Whatever this season opens up for you, embrace it with wonderment, knowing God is in the midst of the change.

September is full of great change in our children and youth ministry. This is what is happening:

Sunday, September 11th: Blessing of the Backpacks (please bring your backpacks to Church)

Monday, September 12th: Children and Youth Minister Team Meeting (if you are interested in joining us, please contact me) 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 14th: F.R.O.G. Games (sports night) 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, September 25th: Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm



High School Youth meet each Sunday morning in the youth room on the lower level.



Junior High School students – grades 6-8 meet in the 1st room off the Auditorium



SKA (Sunday Kool Activities) for grades 1-5 meet the 1st room outside the Auditorium



We will once again have a supervised nursery beginning on September 11th.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping our children and youth grow in their faith on Sunday mornings or our midweek groups.

Smiles and Blessings, Heather

Pastor Mark's Musings

Dear Friends,

In America everything today rotates, it seems, around politics. In fact, in one poll I saw recently more than half of Americans said that they would not be friends with someone who belonged to a different political party. It used to be that religion was the main marker of division between people. The Protestant/Catholic divide was still around when I was a kid growing up. Today religion no longer carries the same baggage as it used to. Rather, it is politics that has become the overarching marker of identity that people use to segregate themselves from others. Canada is usually about a decade behind the US with these kinds of issues so it is worth keeping an eye on it.

The problem isn't so much that people have different opinions on a whole host of issues. That is to be expected. I could list to you 10 different subjects and there would be a spectrum of beliefs on each subject if we interviewed 100 people together. The question is whether we have to agree with each other on most of everything in order to get along. And perhaps even more pressing, do people have to have a compatible political philosophy in order to be friends and share community together? I do cringe at the thought that going forward the polarization of our society along political lines will necessitate that people congregate only with people of like minded.

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians

for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

In Paul's time there were three basic divisions between people that were used to segregate people. They were Greek/Jew, slave/free and male/female. These divisions dominated people in how they could interact together or whether they could interact together at all. If you were Greek or Jew determined who you could fellowship with, where you could shop and what religious services you could attend. That was true also with respect to the slave/free dimension of life and the male/female distinctions that dominated social mores. Each characteristic determined the social horizons of people.

Paul says something so radical for his times. He says that in Christ Jesus these distinctions don't matter. We are all one in Christ Jesus. I wonder how people heard his words? It is certainly true that the early Church was a gathering place for people who were customarily segregated in everyday life from each other. People who would otherwise never socialize together would still come and gather as one community in Christ. It was like they had discovered something deeper than divisions of the world and found a deeper reason for congregating together than the world understood.

If Paul were writing a letter to us today he would probably pick out some of the basic ways we segregate ourselves from each other. What would it mean to us if he said that in Christ there is no conservative/progressive. Could we hear him? What if Paul said that in Christ there is no woke/anti-woke. Could we hear him? What if our political identity has nothing to do directly with living out the love of God revealed to us in Christ Jesus? In fact, living with people who see and understand the world differently than we do may be precisely the challenge of holy love that God calls us to.

Do you think we could be that kind of community? Would you want to build that kind of community? It certainly is not easy. It is much easier to hang out with people who see the world as we do. It is much simpler to segregate ourselves and seek community with people who share many of the common assumptions of life that we do. The only problem with that approach is that it seems so small minded. And I don't think that is the way of the Gospel of Jesus. Our first Trillium Core Value is this "to offer friendship and fellowship to all." I think that is just another way of saying, "for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." We are to seek the better but harder path of love with each other. And that is a good thing!

Your Friend in Christ,

Mark

TRILLIUM UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission: *To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world!*

Pastor: Mark Rutledge
Youth & Outreach: Heather Margerison
Music Director: Jason White
Office Administrator: Jo-Anne Hennig
Bookkeeper: Mandy Townsend
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OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 10 am to 3 pm

Our Vision: *Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ*



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- **Secretary:** David Webster
- **Adult Spiritual Growth:** Ruth Thompson
- **Children & Youth Ministry:** Brian Hershey
- **Financial Liaison:** Kevin Uebele
- **Generosity:** Co-Chair - Pam Noël
- **Membership:** Joan Joyce
- **Ministry & Personnel:** Chair - Pauline Duchesne (Demelo)
- **Property:** Co-Chair - David Reed
- **Social Concerns & Outreach:** Co-Chair - Susan Balfour
- **Staff:** Pastor Mark Rutledge, Heather Margerison
- **Worship:** Diane Boyer

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ROOTS & SPROUTS

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