



# Keeping in Touch

December 7, 2017

## **Christmas Services**

### **Friday, December 22**

Service of Light and Hope – 7 pm

### **Sunday, December 24**

Regular Service (4<sup>th</sup> Advent) – 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Family Service – 7 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion – 10:30 pm

## **Fare Share Food Bank**

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for their ongoing support of Fare Share Food Bank. Current items the food bank would appreciate receiving are:

canned fruit and vegetables

juice boxes

canned or bottled juice

rice

WOW butter

dry pasta (no spaghetti please)

personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant and shampoo

## Amnesty International

Amnesty International's, 2017 "Write for Rights" campaign at Trinity will be held Sunday, December 10th in Ryerson Hall before and after church. Your letters, combined with millions from around the world, can change a life! By signing the letters and the petition, you will be adding your voice to the growing movement for justice and human rights. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support!

- Alasdair & Jane Gillespie.

## Ten Thousand Villages

This Christmas, help at home and around the world by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages, Cobourg on Trinity United Church Day, Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 5 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase beautiful, fairly traded gifts while also helping the Mission and Service Fund which will receive 10% of all Trinity sales that day. Please make sure to remind the volunteers working that day that you are from Trinity. Ten Thousand Villages will continue to honour the ten percent Mission and Service donation right up to Christmas.

## Advent in the Chapel

Advent is a time of preparation, a journey. Often, despite our best intentions to find calm and peace, this journey is filled with chaos and confusion. We invite you to join us in the Chapel (room 220) each Sunday during the Advent Season before our regular worship service begins for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. We offer this time and place to aid your journey from the bustle and busyness to serenity and possibility. Sundays – Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 10-10:15 am. Please speak to Cheryl if you would like more details.

## Gifts with Vision Giving 2017-18

Looking for the right gift for Christmas? Gifts with Vision is online and ready to help lovingly celebrate a special occasion and make a difference in the world. A new Gifts with Vision catalogue is available online and is full of gifts that offer compassion, build community and provide hope. Select your gifts and read inspiring stories at [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca). Copies of the catalogue are also available in Ryerson Hall on the cookie table.

## Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a memorial or an "in honour of" donation to the Christmas flowers placed in the Sanctuary this season, please bring it to the church office by Wednesday, December 13. You may also place it on the offering plate on Sunday mornings (please put your cheque/cash in an envelope and clearly mark it "Christmas Flowers".) The flowers will grace our church for the Christmas services and then be delivered to members of our church family as an expression of our caring. The name of the person you are remembering/honouring will be printed in the December 24 morning bulletin.

## White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 10 is White Gift Sunday at Trinity. We are inviting you to bring gifts for Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre.

Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre supports women and children in need with a safe, warm place to sleep and the basics to get them through.

You can help by making a general monetary donation or you may direct your donation to a specific package such as shelter, clothing for cold weather, baby care packages or basic needs.

Some items from their "Wish List of Most Need" include: bus tickets, \$5 long distance calling cards, gift cards for No Frills, Shoppers Drug Mart, Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire, and Home Hardware as well as passes to YMCA and the Community Centre. Useful non-perishable food items suggested are: coffee, canned tomatoes, tuna, soup, and pasta. Household items like

single sheets, bedding, tea towels, laundry products, paper products, AA and AAA batteries, as well as toiletries and baby diapers are included in the items on their list.

Gifts may be left unwrapped. Contributions will gratefully be collected on December 10th.

## **Sanctuary Improvement Committee 2017/18 Update**

Hello from the Sanctuary Improvement Committee! It's been a while since we conducted our congregational survey last fall, and since then we have carefully collected and considered your suggestions, and from them created a report.

So here's what the report said: there's a lot of work to do on our beloved stained glass windows, to the tune of \$120,000 in the next three years and \$50,000 more within the next five years. It is also time to start working towards replacing our organ, and we recommend the church purchase a pipe organ.

In terms of changes to the physical space of the sanctuary, we don't recommend anything drastic--I know some of you were worried we would. Most of the recommendations are pretty small. For the choir, we are looking at a video monitor system so they can see what is going on in the service. For the congregation, we have purchased cushions to make the pews more comfortable and have some recommendations on tuning up our sound system.

There are also three larger recommendations I would like to mention: one, we really need to repair our sanctuary exterior doors. Two, we should consider a temporary stage that we can use for dramatic presentations and other events. And three, we should consider turning the North East vestibule into an accessible entrance from Chapel Street.

To see all our recommendations, I welcome you to read the report or talk to someone on our committee. During coffee hour, I will be giving out copies of an abridged report listing all the recommendations, and I hope to post the full report up on the church website shortly.

We presented the report to Church Council in September, and I'm pleased to say they accepted our report and affirmed the recommendations. Council also asked us to start

planning the next steps, coming up with specific timelines and recommendations about how to proceed. So stay tuned, because this is not the last you'll hear from us!

- James Fingas, Chair, Sanctuary Improvement Committee

## **Christmas Concerts**

### ***Christmas in Northumberland***

Northumberland Orchestra and Choir

at Trinity United Church

Saturday, December 9 – 7:30 pm

Tickets at Victoria Hall box office or at the door

### ***All Spruced Up***

La Jeunesse Choirs

Seasonal concert and silent auction at Trinity United Church

Saturday, December 16 – 7 pm

Tickets at Victoria Hall box office, Burnham Family Farm Market or at the door

## **Ride to Church**

For a ride to church in December, please call Ron Swallow, 905-373-4455.

