

Trillium United Church

Tidings

November 2009



UCW Christmas Party

The UCW Christmas Potluck Supper will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend this enjoyable evening, to help get us into the Christmas spirit. Everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish, a plate and cutlery (in order to make the clean up easier), a 'toonie' to go toward our Christmas family and an article for the Food Bank.

Punch and Visiting - 6:00 p.m.

Supper - 6:30 p.m.

Please mark your calendars. We would like to see as many ladies as possible attend.

Mary-Jane Glaser



A Message of Appreciation from Joan Hipel

Joan Hipel wishes to say thank you to all of the Trillium congregation members who called, sent cards and visited when Roy became so ill this fall and had to be hospitalized. Joan was struggling with her own health issues during this time and is so grateful for the support that she received from her kind and caring Trillium friends.

Trillium Core Value:
Give generously of our time and talent.

Trillium Story: I can think of so many Trillium members who contribute so much of their time and talent for the benefit of all. Jean Schnaeringer is one of those dedicated people. If something is going on and help is needed, Jean is there! Thank you Jean for your faithfulness and for setting the standard high for the rest of us!

Pop Can Tab Update

Thanks to everyone for contributing your pop can tabs. On Friday, November 13, I contacted Jack Baumber at the Royal Canadian Legion in Elora. Jack was one of the two Legion members who initiated this program over twenty years ago. He told me that 1,107 wheelchairs, scooters and four wheel walkers have been purchased as of November 13! These aids are supplied to not only veterans but any adult or child in need of such a device.

On Saturday we delivered a few thousand tabs to the Legion in Elora. Keep them coming and thanks again.

Don Martin

Trillium's Purpose

What is Trillium's purpose?

or

Why are we here? Where do we want to go?

The answers to these questions form the focus of the current Mission and Vision phase of planning at Trillium. Over the next few months the church leadership is working to bring their views to the congregation for contemplation, discussion, enhancement and confirmation. We trust that the future life and direction of Trillium will become clearer at this time.

Your church council and lay leaders plan to have their views summarized for congregational input by mid January. At that time an action plan which defines key next steps will also be available. The Mission, Vision, and Action Plan will be thoroughly and formally reviewed at our Annual Meeting and will form the foundation for Trillium initiatives in 2010 and beyond.

We are excited and enthusiastic that the time of discernment has advanced to the point where action can begin. We look forward to input from the congregation as we move forward with confidence to answer God's call!

Trillium Church Council



UCW

Fall Luncheon

The UCW Fall Luncheon which was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 realized a profit of approximately \$1300. Many thanks to you for supporting this annual event.



Trillium's Special Thanksgiving Offering

Thank you for your generous donations to our Special Thanksgiving Funds. The designations were as follows:

Life & Work - *Building Fund*: \$650

Outreach - *Good Samaritan Fund*: \$632

Children's Coordinator Needed

Trillium United Church (Cambridge) is seeking a part time (10-12 hrs. a week) Children's Coordinator to plan and oversee the children's ministry. The contract would run from January 1, 2010 to August 31, 2010 with the possibility of renewal. Duties include Sunday morning and a once a week after school program.

Please send resumes to trilliumunited-church@golden.net. For more information, please contact the church at 519-653-6601 or trilliumchurch.ca.



Small Groups

Spiritual Chicks - Ruth Thompson

This woman's wellness group is studying with great interest the book entitled *The Slow Down Diet*. There is active participation by the group's six members who meet each Tuesday evening. We enjoy talking about food and learning from each other as well. Many of us are trying new foods and developing new relationships with food. Some of us are feeling better too. Each week there is a different spiritual activity such as meditation, centering prayer exercises, singing and faith discussion. The current group meets until December 8 and there are plans to re-start this group in the New Year with a different health and wellness focus.

Alpha - Selma Webster

Our group has been meeting at the Preston School apartments on Duke Street since September. The weekly Alpha video has engendered spirited discussion in the group. Our last session will be December 16. Members of the group are starting to talk about the possibility of a follow up group in the New Year.

Relaxation & Meditation - Marilyn Bridgman

This group has been meeting on Monday mornings at the church from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We have enjoyed a time of getting to know one another. It is good to have friends with whom we can discuss things that concern us, and to have a safe place where it is okay to say how we are really feeling. It's great to have a time to nurture our bodies and our souls. The current group ends on November 23. There will be a new group starting early in January, with many if not all of the current group planning to return. If you are planning a New Year's Resolution based on taking time to nurture yourself, you may want to think about joining this group. If other days or times would work better for you, please take the time to connect with me, Marilyn Bridgman, at 519-621-5775.

Fall Walk With God



Twelve Trillium members participated in the 'Fall Walk With God' on Sunday, October 18. We were lucky to have such beautiful weather! Most of the participants enjoyed the chickadees eating out of their hands as they stood on the boardwalk holding out seeds. We will try to organize another 'Walk With God' during the winter for those who are interested.

Living the Questions - Susan Balfour

This group is very small, with three members. We had an opportunity to join a larger group at Glenmorris United Church who are involved with the same study. The advantage of larger numbers is that there would be more diversity in the perspectives introduced during each discussion. We decided to proceed on our own, however, which has given us the flexibility to change the day of the week and the time of our meetings if one of us has a scheduling conflict. Each of us also has a better opportunity to question and express opinions. We have met five times covering such topics as: an invitation to journey; thinking theologically; creativity and stories of creation; restoring relationships; evil, suffering and a God of love; intimacy with God; and social justice. Because we have only completed one of the two DVDs in the program, we have decided to reconvene in the New Year to complete the study. The program is not sequential so anyone who would like to join us is most welcome. Please call Susan Balfour at 519-623-0929.

Small Group Survey Results

Thanks to all of you who gave your input on the kinds of new small groups you would like to see at Trillium. The Small Group Coordination Team will consider these ideas depending on interest level and availability

of leaders. We only need four or five people per small group.

The suggestions for the small groups listed below were selected by two or more people. If one of these small groups is of interest to you, contact Ruth Thompson, Chair of the Small Group Coordination Team, at 519-650-3376.

SUPPORT GROUPS:

Weight Loss Support; After School Club; Parents Group; Aging Issues; Teens Group

MINISTRY/ OUTREACH:

Street Ministry; Social Justice; Environment; Seniors; Child/Youth Choir

FAITH GROUPS:

Other Faiths/World Religions; Basic Christian Beliefs; Progressive Christianity; Bible Study

INTEREST GROUPS:

Star Gazing; Computers; Hiking/Walking; Movies; Book Club.



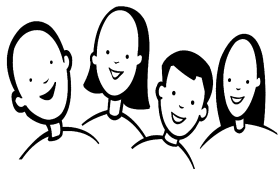
The Mitten Tree

Our mitten tree will soon be up in the front of the sanctuary. We hope that all of the Trillium knitters have been busy with their needles! You may also donate mittens, hats, and scarves that you have purchased. There are lots of children in our community who will soon need them!

Journey to Bethlehem

All ages are invited to join the Sunday School Class as we journey through **The Greatest Story Ever Told!** Begin the journey with music and carol singing, then travel through the Bethlehem countryside meeting beggars, prophets, Roman soldiers, innkeepers, shepherds, and angels. The trip takes about 45 minutes so dress warmly for the walk outside. After the journey, we will warm up with hot drinks and festive cookies.

Joy to the World



Date: Tuesday, December 1 and Wednesday, December 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: Free-will donation for Lansdowne Children's Centre and a non-perishable food item.

Location: Five Oaks, 1 Bethel Rd. in Paris. Please park at Bethel Stone United Church (154 Bethel Road) in Paris. Shuttle service starts at 5:45 p.m.

10,000 Villages Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar

Join us with friends and neighbours at our Second Annual 10,000 Villages Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar! Beautiful Fair Trade

handicrafts from all over the world will be showcased in the upper auditorium on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 6 during coffee time, after the morning worship service. Support sustainability in developing nations by purchasing beautiful, high quality, hand-crafted merchandise. Everything from books, posters, and artwork to jewellery, home furnishings, chocolate and coffee will make your Christmas shopping sound simple. Proceeds support sustainable living practices for Fair Trade partners in the developing world. Ten percent of the proceeds will fill a stable for a World Vision family.

NEW BEGINNINGS

It has been a great joy working with Trillium's children and youth over the last two years. It is a beautiful way to watch children grow, and to get to know parents and other volunteers. While we are over the moon about a new baby in the house, I will not be able to return to duty after my Maternity Leave (expected to start January 1, 2010). This does leave a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to get involved with the Children and Youth Ministry at Trillium. I challenge anyone who has not worked with our Sunday School or Youth to discover the blessings that our young ones are to us. Lesson plans are laid out with easy and flexible options. Help is available each week from Aowsmere Ordon, our dedicated Shepherd who lends a hand in the

class. Anyone wishing to help our Sunday School between January 17 and June 20 are more than welcome to contact Esenje before the New Year at 519-219-5965.

Esenje Bonga-Hall

From Your Librarian

In October Marilyn Bridgman and I attended the UCW Hamilton Conference "Five-Oaks" Annual Retreat. It was a soul satisfying experience. While there, I purchased for our library a slim volume entitled *Waking Up to This Day: Seeing the Beauty Right Before Us* by Paula D'Arcy. It would make an excellent study book. Is anyone interested? If so, call Diane Jennings-Williams at 519-653-3633.

Music Needs



Church Council has moved to begin the search for a permanent music director at Trillium. During the worship service on Sunday, November 1, 2009 the congregation was asked to complete a survey to help the search committee better understand the music ministry needs of Trillium and its members. The survey was also made available on November 8 at the morning service and on the Trillium website. The members of the Music Director Search Committee include Harry Bryant, Ann Cochrane, Diane Jennings-Williams, Doug Stuart and Mark Rutledge.

Trillium Bedrock Belief: God's Ways: Mysterious

Trillium Story: Our faith journey at Trillium over the past few years reminds me of the Israelites wandering in the desert longing for the promised land. As we struggle with the Vision and Mission phase of our journey we need to listen to Him to discover why we are here as a church and what His plans are for us.

Zehrs Grocery Cards

We continue to sell Zehrs grocery cards during Sunday coffee time. Four percent of the sales is donated back to Trillium. At this point in 2009 we have made a profit of \$2,298. Cards in \$25 denominations are now available for purchase as Christmas gifts.

Christmas Food Drive

Please bring in non-perishable food items to the church for the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank. Items needed most include: peanut butter, canned pasta sauce, juice, cereal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, baby formula, shampoo and toothpaste.

Did You Know?

The UCW would like Trillium members to know that a large portion of the money they raise through the spring and fall luncheons, the catering of funeral receptions and regular monthly givings is directed out into our community.

UCW Outreach Budget for 2010

Argus Residence	\$50.00
Cambridge Food Bank	\$100.00
Cambridge Hospital	\$100.00
Cambridge Shelter (The Bridges)	\$ 200.00
C.O.D.E.	\$50.00
Five Oaks	\$100.00
Mission & Service	\$2000.00
M&S World Develop Service/ Relief	\$100.00
Massey Centre	\$50.00
S.C.A.W.	\$70.00
St. Luke's Place Auxiliary	\$50.00
St. Monica House (Cambridge)	\$50.00
St. Paul's College	\$100.00
Women of TUC Full/Time Service	\$50.00
Total:	\$3,070.00

Funds are also given by this small group to support Trillium Church.

Diane Jennings-Williams

Trillium's Beef Dinner

The Membership Committee thanks each one of you for supporting our Annual Beef Dinner on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. We especially thank our husbands, Neil Hammond, Neil's brothers Carl and Ray, and his son Chris, for their expertise in the kitchen. We also thank Rev. Mark for greeting, and each and every one of you who helped with food donations and cleanup. Our profit for Trillium was \$2398.63. Thanks go out to Bill Whitley for taking responsibility for all of the ticket sales. The food that was left over was donated to the Community Table at Trinity Anglican Church and to the Crisis Shelter for Women.



Sheila Matthews, Membership Committee

WORLD AIDS DAY

The Outreach Committee at Trinity Anglican Church (12 Blair Rd., Galt) would like to invite members of Trillium to the Third Annual Interdenominational World AIDS Day Service which will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Anne-Marie Zajdlík from the Masai HIV/AIDS Centre in Guelph. She will share her experiences at the Tsepong Clinic, a life-saving HIV/AIDS treatment centre in Lesotho, Africa.

Parish Nurse Update

On Thursday, November 12, our Trillium Health Committee was informed that the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) has decided to assist InterChurch Health Ministries (ICHM) with the funding for only one parish nurse rather than the six previously approved. Further, ICHM advised us that the one church that would receive the funding would be the one that has already identified a Parish Nurse candidate. Since Trillium has not yet identified a candidate we will not receive funding at this time.

The Trillium Health Committee will not make further commitment to ICHM without congregational approval. If Trillium decides to continue the process of hiring a parish nurse, we will have to cover the full cost earlier than was the case with early stage ICHM funding. A ballpark figure for the estimated cost would be \$35,000 annually. There are sufficient funds in the Jennings Memorial Investment Account (also known as the Hipel Fund) to cover the costs for about eight years, if this is the route that the congregation chooses to follow.

Your feedback would be appreciated. Please speak to Rev. Mark or any member of the Health Team (Don Martin, Eric Dahlin, Diane Jennings-Williams, Janice Cruickshank, Sheila Matthews, Judy Beeksmas, or Mary-Jane Glaser).

Don Martin

Old-Fashioned Gathering of Friends

Our first Old-Fashioned Gathering of Friends went very well. The music was excellent and the food was superior. We raised \$340 for "The Bridges". Join us again next year!



As we approach the end of the year our revenues are quite far behind the budget approved at our Annual Meeting. At the current pace we will end the year approximately \$22,500 behind budget. Please give your church finances prayerful consideration in the coming weeks as we enter the season of Advent. Our Mission & Service goal for 2009 was approved at \$25,000. Our year to date total givings is \$19,242.

Choirs & Carols

The Trillium choir has been invited to join other Cambridge area choirs as Wesley United Church presents an evening of Choirs & Carols at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, 2009. Come and enjoy the music as they welcome in the Christmas season.

Notations from the Music Bench



‘Angels, we have heard on high...Gloria’, go the strains of the familiar carol. These words remind us that God’s music was in the air and around humanity as God gave the gift of Himself through His Son, the Baby Jesus. There was

excitement and energy in the shepherds (why this jubilee? as the song suggests) and there was a pull to go to Bethlehem and adore the newborn King of the Jewish nation and of all people’s hearts.

It’s not so different now, but we’ve perhaps become a bit dull to the music of God around us. God’s music and God’s message pull us to worship the God Incarnate, Jesus, and to open our hearts to worship the One who made us and not ourselves. Where do we find this music, where can we hear it?

It is primarily found in the presence of God’s people, or should be found there. In the Bible, the missionary and servant of God, Paul, refers to God’s people as God’s message written on his heart. The people of God are called to bear God’s message, to model it and wear it, to sing it and express it to an unconsciously observant world.

As Mary was pregnant and gave birth to an amazing Child, whose beauty we have yet

to fathom the depths and greatness of, whose power to restore and make alive we too often sell short, so God desires to form in us and give through us a gift of wordless beauty, the music of the union of our hearts and souls with His. We are meant to be like God’s angels, no longer on high, but here on earth, singing or expressing with our lives an affirming and adoring ‘Gloria’ through the dark skies of our journey.

And this is what I hear at Trillium United Church in Cambridge, Ontario. There are those angels, those who offer simple and serene songs or gregarious and gutsy jingles or even squeezed in and squeaky segues. They may or may not be musicians in the strict sense, but they are offering what they have, worshipping from the heart. These modern-day magi adore the Christ-Child out of the best they have. These gifts are valuable and cherished offerings.

Let us with truer, more willing hearts continue to offer what we have to our Lord, because we are the prime substance of what He has to work with and we are the prime gift that He wants. We are his message and his song and we can help pull people in to face and figure out what God has to do with them and engage the process of restoration and rejuvenation as children of God. Beyond us, God may make the stones sing, but He would rather hear the echo of his love back from those born of the Son, and the Song of Songs.

Teresa Venhuizen, Interim Music Director

PAR HELPS TRILLIUM

What Is PAR? With Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), church offerings are given by an automatic monthly debit from individuals' bank accounts. PAR is convenient for the donor and supplies a reliable income for the congregation. The United Church of Canada administers the program for congregations.

You can sign up for PAR by contacting Trillium's PAR Coordinator, Pauline Demelo at 519-653-6601. For those of you who are already on PAR and would like to change the amount of your monthly givings, you can do so by calling Pauline. We currently have 33 people on PAR and the more people using the program, the more valuable and helpful PAR is to Trillium.



Special Christmas Offering

Enclosed in your *Tidings* envelope you will find the green Special Offering Envelope. Extra envelopes will be available in the vestibules for those who receive *Tidings* online. This year the donations will be directed as follows:

Life & Work - *Trillium's Building Fund*
Outreach Project - *The Bridges Shelter*
Home for the Holidays Campaign

Advent Wreaths

The season of Advent is often accompanied by the tradition of the Advent wreath. This circle of evergreens reminds us of God's presence with us always. The light that increases as we add a candle each week helps to mark the time of waiting, and the Christ candle in the middle of the wreath reminds us that the light of Christ shines at the centre of our lives.

Over the years, several traditions have been associated with the candles. The most common schemes are to use either four blue candles (blue symbolizes hope) or three purple and one pink candle. Purple is a traditional colour associated with royalty, reminding us that Jesus came as prince of peace. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent when the scripture texts talk about joy. This is an adaptation of an ancient tradition of connecting pink roses with joy during Lent and Advent.

Many people attach symbolism to the colours themselves, such as peace, love, joy, and hope (sometimes in a different order). The symbolism and the colours, however, are secondary to the idea of the circle of growing lights as we prepare for Christmas.



Advent

The early church was very much a future orientated church. The focus on the return of Christ made it necessary to keep a constant vigilance in the face of day to day challenges. The church believed that the new life that was promised for those in heaven had already come on earth, in part at least, through the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans (Romans 8:18, 23) :

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us... but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.” What was started by Christ was eagerly expected to be completed.

The great challenge of churches in the 21st century is to reclaim this future orientation. Over the years many of the main line churches have focussed too much on preserving old buildings and past traditions and have become irrelevant to life going on around them.

The biblical perspective puts great emphasis on memory and remembering, but in the context of giving meaning and strength to the present moment. We can believe in the power and goodness of God today, in this moment, because we remember the power and goodness from our collective past. It is the same God who moves in the past, the present and the future.

Trillium Church is a borrowed church that we hold in trust for our grandchildren. That is our proper orientation. God entrusts us with the future mission of His kingdom on earth. As we work together on a new vision for Trillium during the next few months, our hope is that we can build a church that will stand the test of our times, meet our spiritual needs and be a flourishing and life giving presence for our children and grandchildren. This will be our legacy.

Blessings,
Rev. Mark



Tidings

Email any articles for *Tidings* to: tidings@golden.net. Articles can also be dropped off at the church. The deadline for the next issue is February 17, 2010. It will be issued on February 28, 2010.

Requests to receive an email alert when *Tidings* is posted on the church website may also be sent to the above address.

Tidings is produced for:
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Share the Journey

Sundays: Blended Service 10:30 a.m.



November 29	Choirs & Carols (7:30 p.m. at Wesley United Church)
December 1	World Aids Day Service (7:00 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church in Cambridge)
December 1 & 2	Journey to Bethlehem (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Five Oaks in Paris; Shuttle begins at 5:45 p.m. each evening)
December 5 & 6	10,000 Villages Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar (Dec. 5 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Dec. 6 during Coffee Time)
December 7	UCW Christmas Potluck Supper (Punch and Visiting - 6:00 p.m.; Supper - 6:30 p.m.)
December 9	LIFT Christmas Party (Punch & Visiting - 6:00 p.m.; Turkey Dinner - 6:30 p.m.)
December 20	Trillium's Christmas Pageant (Christmas Sunday Service)
December 24	Christmas Eve Children's Pageant (7:00 p.m.) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (10:30 p.m.)
January 8	2009 Annual Reports to Church Office
January 31	Trillium's Annual Congregational Meeting