

TRINITY BRANCHES

Fall 2021



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries from coast to coast are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples

Photo: Fall at Navy Street Park, Oakville

Minister's Message

In preparation for this season's newsletter, I took a look back at what I had written at this point last year. It is all about adaptability, full of new hope for the hybrid model of worship that we were just starting to pick up. I can remember hoping that in a few months we would start to pull out of this pandemic and begin to move back into worship as a full community again (how novel! how strange!). And yet, that was not how it was to be. We found ourselves re-re-opening the church for worship a few short weeks ago. It seems that things changed, and are changing again. The same mindset as last year is proving to be useful.

There are many things that have changed. I have gotten a lot more used to hearing my own recorded voice, for instance. But our country and our church have all made changes that are allowing them to be more pandemic-safe. I was reminded today that we are above a 70% vaccination rate in Canada (and hopefully moving closer to 90-100% with each new week). Though there are still cases while segments of the population remain vulnerable and the spectre of another wave of cases is still present, there can be some hope here. Though things will surely continue to change from here, there has been some positive leaps from where we were at this time last year. It is still difficult to say for sure where we are headed, both in terms of our national public health situation as well as the many other facets of life. It is difficult to say when we might be able to attend church without masks, or be able to have a choir rehearsal, or enjoy soup in Fellowship Hall again. Change is constant, but in what direction we will move and when we will cycle back to a familiar place is a constantly moving target. What I thought this fall would look like had you asked me two years ago, a year ago, or even three months ago would be different each time.

But life has not stopped. One of the joys I've had over the past year is preparing for my cousin's wedding this fall. It will be the first wedding I have officiated, and it has been a year of pulling together resources and ensuring we are all on the same page about what ought to be said and what needs to be done. Though many of the weeks have blended together, I know that I have gotten sharper at some of my writing for services. Both personally and professionally I have grown and explored and done things a little differently than I would have otherwise done them had this not been the global event we were dealing with. There have been experiences that we have lost over this year and a half, but there are things that we have gained. The time has not been entirely lost and there are still things that have occurred that can continue to bring us joy. It's a little like picking up fallen leaves though: these are beautiful things that we can treasure to look at and turn over in our hands, but they are reminders of the cold and darkness that caused them to change colour in the first place. But we should collect them all the same, and accept these small gifts from our lives in this time that has not been like how we might have imagined.

Regardless of where we end up, there will be more leaves for us. Even if we circle back or find ourselves lost, that walking was still worth it if we find things of beauty on the way.



With love, Rev. Scott

Youth Ministry Update



Our continued Sunday School online has helped the children remain connected and engaged in learning about God's love. Over several Sundays with the much-appreciated help of volunteers: Vicki Nock, Phyllis Greer and Mary-Lloyd Clifford, we were able to teach the children The Lord's Prayer in sign language. The final video was shared in one of our online worship services in May. We will continue to do Sunday School online and reassess the situation after thanksgiving, regarding the possibility of returning

to Sunday School in person. Updates will be shared via email and Trinity Happenings.

Virtual Camp TUC themed: The Great Experiment, was great fun, with science-based activities to help us learn about strength, motion, resilience, amazing nature and malleability in a world created by God. The message that science is valued in church is one that is not only relevant in today's world, but is an especially important message during a pandemic. Additional photos from Camp TUC were shared on our Facebook page and through our in-person worship service on September 19th. Thank you to our student volunteer Kat, and Rev. Beckett, for pre-recording prayers for us and spending time with us online, and also to Sheila for helping with the camp kits.



How to be flexible and adaptable are lessons we have all had to learn during this pandemic. These are valuable lessons that children have had to learn in an exceptionally challenging way. But despite these challenges, with the help of technology, family, community and church, the spirits of children remain uplifted and in return help keep us uplifted.

Peace and blessings, Abigail

Bits and Pieces from Council

(Keeping you up to date!)

June 23 and Sept 8 meetings

1. Our investments are doing extremely well, but we, of course, have no income from rentals.
2. The audit for 2020 has been completed. Thank you, Jacqueline Kalina.
3. The current situation in India is not good. Covid-wise and the government problems that are not allowing us to send funds to Roofs have been frustrating. We will know soon if the latest attempt to send money was successful!
4. The Golf League continues to play on Tuesday mornings with sometimes up to 12 or more players! Over \$1000 have been raised through this event! FORE!
5. Council has tabled the Junk in the Trunk Sale until the spring, when hopefully, the Covid numbers will allow it to happen! Please wait to hear when we will accept your contributions!

History Highlights



The Canadian Flag located on the Pulpit side of the Sanctuary was donated in Oct 1992 in memory of Donald Hodgson by his Mom and family, Babs Hodgson.



The Union Jack Flag, located on the Lectern side, was donated in memory of Bert and Ellen Williams by their son and his wife, Stan and Irene Williams in Nov 1992.



The stained glass Trinity United Church sign on our property at the corner of McCraney and Sewell was donated in 1983 by Sudi and Asha Devanesen in memory of his father, Chandran Devanesen, the founder of Roofs for the Roofless.

Trinity Tidbits



Leo Micah Murray was welcomed into the Greer family on August 11, 2021. A son for Tim and Rachel, brother for Alexa and 8th grandchild for Phyllis and Jim. A delightful wee boy!

On Saturday September 18 we had a celebration of the life of Marianne Mighton. Marianne passed away March 20, 2020 has been sorely missed by family and friends.



White gift

The kids are back to school and now it's time to think about Thanksgiving. In order for us to assist several families this year, we are in much need of the following items:

Canned veggies Tuna
Peanut Butter Soups
Lunch box snacks Kraft Dinner
Drinking boxes Pasta and sauces
Canned fruit

Other non-perishable items not listed above, are also welcome.
We would appreciate any help that you are able to provide. Many thanks!



- Reconciliation is an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining *respectful relationships*
- What is a respectful relationship?
 - Safety, encouragement, honesty, trust, caring, freedom to be yourself, listening, valuing opinions
 - Everyone has the right to feel safe, to be treated with fairness, to be valued and feel accepted for who they are

Update from the Treasurer

The past nine months at Trinity have been relatively quiet since no in person services have taken place and no rentals have happened either. In August some of our renters returned but certainly not all of them, therefore our rental income is very low. We have not been able to do any fundraisers except for the golf league that Ross Roberts has organized for the golfing season. We appreciate the work that Ross has put into this and we have about 12 golfers every Tuesday who donate \$5.00 to the church every time they play. To date we have received around \$1,000 from this fundraiser.

I would like to thank those parishioners who provide their weekly offerings through PAR. This provides us with a steady monthly income that we can depend on. If you are not on PAR at this time and would like to be, please contact me and I will get you the forms so we can sign you up. (jagreer139@gmail.com)

Throughout the year we have had to withdraw funds from our investment account (\$95,000) in order to pay bills, such as the parking lot lighting and the new church sign on the front of the building, as well as pay our regular bills and employee salaries. The saving grace here is that our investments have been doing very well so far this year and we have recovered in interest more than half of the amount we have taken out.

Included in this newsletter you will find the final audited financial statement for the year 2020. Thank you to Jacqueline Kalina for doing this work for us. Jackie has decided to step down as our auditor as her schedule is very full and she has limited time to complete the work necessary to do a complete audit of our finances. I would like to thank Jackie for her work over the past several years and we appreciate her assistance in making sure that we are correctly accounting for all our debits and credits.

With that in mind, if you are, or if anyone you know is versed in doing our audit for 2021 early next year, please contact me or the church office.

If anyone has any questions about our finances please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jim Greer, Treasurer

At the Congregational meeting held Mar 7, 2021 to review and approve the Annual Report for 2020, the financial reports were yet to be completed and audited. It was passed that when these became available, the Council would review and approve them and make them available to the congregation.



AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the council of Trinity United Church of Oakville:

I have completed the audit of the 2020 financial statements of Trinity United Church. The following summarizes my findings for this year's audit:

For the 2020 year close, the church has engaged an external firm – Tino, Gaetani & Carusi – to complete the compilation of the financial statements for the year. Note this does not include auditing of the financial statements, but it does mean that the firm has prepared the financial statements using the church's records to ensure proper presentation of the financial results. In the completion of the compilation engagement, the firm identified \$28,061 of adjustments required to be made to the equity section of the financial statements, some of which this auditor is not in agreement with. As such, I am enclosing a revised set of financial statements that reflect the adjustments I find to be appropriate in order to represent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization.

The findings for this year's audit are similar to prior year comments including the necessity to ensure proper regular oversight of activities. Although cheque signing and depositing practices are well-documented, the key internal control of monthly back reconciliations shows no evidence of review by anyone other than the preparer. There have been no misstatements related to this, however it is recommended for future years that monthly bank reconciliations be reviewed and signed off on a regular basis to ensure no errors go uncorrected over a long period of time. In addition, the proper process of waiting for an auditor's report to be produced prior to submitting statements to the CRA for completion of the T2200 Charity Return represents a serious deficiency in process. Council must take note that the statements submitted to the CRA for filing were submitted prior to the completion of the audit and do not reflect the changes outlined in Appendix A.

My audit has been conducted with a materiality threshold appropriate for a not-for-profit organization, meaning not all balances have been examined but all significant balances and a sample of smaller transactions have been reviewed. In conducting my audit, I have discovered material misstatements that I have corrected in the attached revised financial statements (Appendix A) and will require changing for this report to be issued alongside the statements with an unreserved auditor's opinion. In the opinion of this auditor, the financial statements which include the Balance Sheet and Statement of Profit and Loss for Trinity United Church of Oakville – as revised and attached in Appendix A to this letter - represent fairly, in all material respects, the operations for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Kalina, CPA, CA

August 29, 2021

APPENDIX A

Agrees to TB

Trinity United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Item	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Revenues		
Facilities rental	13,423	37,240
HST rebate	2,845	8,606
Covid wage subsidy	30,092	-
Realized return (loss) on capital funds	5,260	25,683
Offerings	70,184	73,530
Special fundraising	1,143	14,129
Net other income	21	170
Total Income	112,448	159,358
Expenses		
Administration	4,664	4,481
Christian education	487	375
Church personnel	108,834	113,712
Communications	536	165
HST expense	3,246	6,702
Investment management fees	12,093	-
Pastoral care committee	60	140
Presbytery assessment	4,661	4,661
Property	19,992	52,161
Stewards	-	295
Professional fees	1,500	-
Trustees: insurance	4,371	3,362
Worship	311	189
Other(fundraising, subscriptions, etc)	-	3,070
Total Expenses	160,755	189,313
Net Surplus (Deficit)	- 48,307	- 29,955
Net surplus after Extraordinary Item	- 48,307	- 29,955

APPENDIX B

Trinity United Church
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2020

Item	TB 2020	PY 2019	
ASSETS			
Cash	2,604	17,581	C 23,135
Sunday school (restricted cash)	-	254	Cash 2,604
Mission and services (restricted cash)	3,883	-	20,531.00
Memorial-related funds (restricted cash)	5,000	-	
Prayer shawl ministry	116	116	
White gift families (restricted cash)	9,399	7,504	
TD Investments	840,621	809,936	
Roofs for the roofless (restricted cash)	2,133	995	
Chair fund	-	8,378	
Total assets	863,756	844,619	
	^	^	
LIABILITIES			
Accrued Liabilities	1,500	-	
Total Liabilities	1,500	-	
Bank indebtedness			
Designated funds (restricted):			
Sunday school	-	254	
Mission and service	3,883	-	
White gift families	9,399	7,504	
Prayer shawl ministry	116	116	
Memorial funds	5,000	-	
Roofs for the Roofless	2,133	995	
chair fund	-	8,378	
Total designated funds	20,531	17,247	
	^	^	
Total liabilities	22,031	17,247	
Equity, Opening Balance	844,619	790,664	
Unrealised (Loss)/Gain from Investments	48,238	-760,709	
Other Adjustments	(1,325)		
Net Surplus/defecit after extraordinary items	- 48,307	- 29,955	
Total Equity	843,225	827,372	
	^	^	
Total liabilities and equity	863,756	844,619	

Note 1: Accounting adjustment to reconcile prior year difference

Jason's Report

We haven't had a report from Jason since the spring 2020 issue, for obvious reasons! Welcome back to Branches, Jason!

Jason is proud to report the results of the Canadian Olympic Team from Tokyo in July/August. 7 GOLD, 5 SILVER and 11 BRONZE. Well done, Canada! He also notes that the next Summer Games will take place in Paris in 2024 which marks the 100th anniversary of Eric Liddell's GOLD win in the 400m.



The Special Olympics in which Jason participates are starting back up on Oct 6 with 5-Pin Bowling, playing for the Oakville Hawkeyes. Floor Hockey, Basketball and Swimming will soon follow.

6 Reasons Why You Should Trust God:

- He knows you by name.

Isaiah 43:1

- He will fight for you.

Exodus 14:14

- He thinks about you

Psalms 139:17

- He has plans for you

Jeremiah 29:11

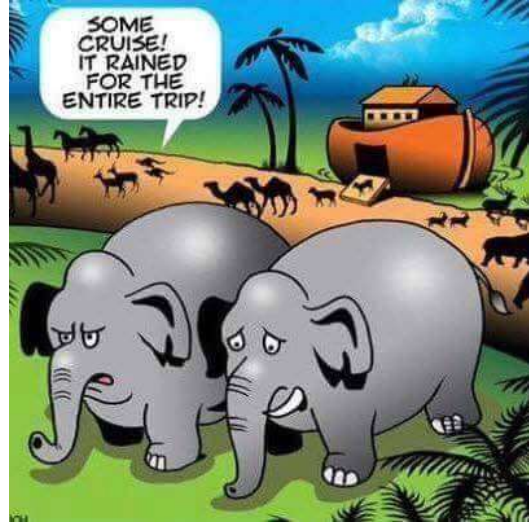
- He is your refuge

Psalms 62:6-8

- He is always with you

Mathew 28:20

The Last Laugh



GRANDMA'S AGE

LITTLE JOHNNY ASKED HIS GRANDMA HOW OLD SHE WAS.

GRANDMA ANSWERED, "39 AND HOLDING."

JOHNNY THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN SAID, "AND HOW OLD WOULD YOU BE IF YOU LET GO?"

3-year-old Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name.

Amen."

