

TRINITY BRANCHES

Christmas 2021



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



Minister's Message



Around the beginning of December, my family would set aside a weekend afternoon for the Christmas tree. We would go and pick one up (we had a few nearby parking lot markets and garden centers we frequented over the years) and get it set up at least a week beforehand, so the branches would have time to settle.

- A few of our key Christmas albums (Jewel, the Rankin Family, the Cambridge Singers, “Another Rosie Christmas” curated by Rosie O’Donnell... you know, the classics) would be put on “spiral” on the stereo.
- Lights would get put on first (usually in advance of this whole process, but there was often lots of time as we got the music set up), and then the glass balls in coordinating colours (either blue and silver or red and gold, very rarely straying from these two combinations). They had to be spaced appropriately by colour, so that there was variety.
- Each of us had a plastic freezer bag filled with ornaments that belonged to us, received as gifts, or made in school, or collected in ways we could no longer remember. “Ugly” ornaments would go towards the back (which made for an interesting view from the outside window) and the remainder would be carefully fitted into spaces, especially where the branches made holes that should be filled in. Each ornament had a small mark of Wite-Out and written in Sharpie over it was an S, C, or E to designate which child it belonged to.
- My parents’ ornaments, and some generic “family” ornaments would go on last, which included two mice on skies that had to find a place to sit on some branches, which were sometimes difficult to place, and a really large glass ball bearing the nativity scene, which usually ended up somewhere near the bottom because there weren’t any big spaces left anywhere else. These were not marked with Wite-Out or letters.
- Some years we would turn off the stereo music and sing carols together around the piano, which sat next to the tree: a true start to the season.

This tradition is no longer part of my Christmas. I have inherited by own freezer bag of ornaments that goes onto my little tree that I have for myself. The other ornaments now live in other places and go on other trees. I think I like that, though. There are pieces of that fun afternoon tradition spread across cities and trees, shared with other people who weren’t ever there in the house I grew up in. I am okay with that tradition changing.

The past year has been a lot about doing things differently. Some of what we are used to, the things that give us joy, have had to change because of circumstances. There are some things that are easy to let go of, and we are glad there was a reason to stop doing them. Other things are more difficult and we have had to make peace with it. The Christmas tree decorating traditional afternoon was important to me as a child, as were many of the standard things we would do in that season. The prospect of those things changing was distressing, and each year I worried that there would be an interruption. But when those things did come to an end and we developed new traditions to suit our life as it was, we still retained a lot of the good things. I still play that music when I decorate my own tree, and it reminds me of time spent with family who are not with me right now. It reminds me that their love is still with me, even if things have changed. Though we do things differently, some things do not change.

With love,
Rev. Scott

Youth Ministry Update

For the last couple of years I have attended the Toronto Children's Ministry Conference, both in person and online. An incredible learning experience, that has enriched my understanding of Children's Ministry, and helped inspire many of the lessons that I have shared with the children and families at Trinity. When I looked into attending a third year, I noticed that most of the speakers were the same as the previous years, with the exception of the keynote speaker, Dave Csinos PhD, author, professor and Founder & President of *Faith Forward*, an ecumenical organization for innovation in ministry with children, youth, and families. In seeking to expand my horizons further, I looked into where else I may learn from Dave Csinos and came across, the Symposium on the Spirituality of Children, where he was one of several guest speakers I hadn't yet learned from.



Due to the pandemic it was an online only offering by *Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary*. The symposium explored the latest research in the spirituality of children. The keynote



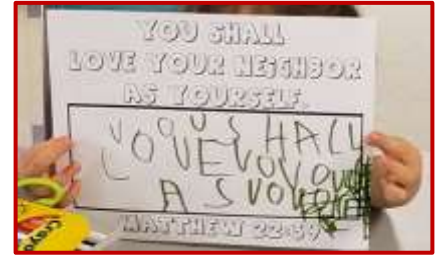
speaker was Jerome Berryman PhD, who founded *Godly Play*. Developed in 1974, *Godly Play* helps children experience God in a way that encourages children to develop their own relationship with God by being invited to wonder. Jerome's message, *Playing in the Flow of God's Creative Power: A Theology of Childhood*, spoke in depth about *Godly play* and how it can help children to develop their own theology.

Likewise, Dave Csinos whose message: *All, Some, None: A Multilayered Interpretation of Children's Theological Meaning-Making*, spoke about his research of children's understanding of God. By interviewing and observing children from many different churches of various denominations, Dave explored the ways those churches affected a child's ability to form their own unique theology. This notion that children be allowed from a very young age, to form their own relationship with God and their own unique understanding, is not new to the United Church. My observations, having experienced many churches throughout the years, is that this encouragement isn't always nourished. I believe that this type of encouragement is not only what Jesus calls us to do, but I believe that this relationship building and nourishment of children's spirituality is fundamental in helping churches remain relevant in times where life can take people in other directions.





There were several other speakers including a diverse panel of individuals well-experienced in Children's Ministry. While learning in person has its own benefits, learning online can also be a rewarding experience. With almost 200 attendees from across the globe, the engaging experience has renewed my faith that children's ministry remains hopeful and that children are capable gifts from God who need to be encouraged to build their own relationship and understanding of God, something I do my best to do here with the children.



As Sunday School in person has resumed, I look to continue teaching our children the importance of developing their own unique relationship with God and encourage them to wonder and create.

Peace and Blessings,

Abigail



History Highlights



Did you know that we purchased our Admin Building from the developer of the neighbourhood? It was the sales office for the new subdivision!



Congregational Meeting

This year's meeting will be held virtually on Sunday, Dec. 5th at 11:30 am on Zoom.

On the agenda will be the approval of our 2022 budget, nominations for Council positions and approval of the Council for 2022.

The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the date.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.

At the upcoming congregational meeting on Dec 5th one of the items on the agenda is for us to approve our new council for 2022.

Following is a list of the Council Officers, Committee Members and Outreach people being recommended by your council for approval on Dec 5th. Again this year, due to the pandemic, President Phyllis Greer requested that council members stay in their current positions for a third year, if at all possible. Most were able to do so. Thank you.

This is **NOT** to say we wouldn't welcome **YOU** on council...say, as Vice President or a member of any committee! There are a few highlighted empty slots.

Please note that we are still able to nominate people from the "floor" at our congregational meeting on Dec 5th.

Take a look at the names on the list below; you may not be aware of all the tremendous people who run your church and make Trinity the wonderful place it is. Thanks to them. Also please note the number of people doing "double/triple duty".....a special thanks to them. ~~Diane Kalina, (still) Past President



The ZOOM link will be sent out to everyone via Sheila's Trinity Happenings on the Friday before the meeting.

If you have trouble with ZOOM, there will be a phone number to call to be at the meeting.

Proposed List of Officers/Committee Members/Outreach for 2022

Officers/Committee Members/Outreach	Term To:	Incumbents (Chair is bolded)
Council - Executive		
President	December 31, 2022 (3)	Phyllis Greer
Vice President	December 31, 2022	Vacant
Past President	December 31, 2022 (3)	Diane Kalina
Secretary	December 31, 2022 (2)	Diane Kalina
Treasurer/Par/Payroll	December 31, 2022 (2)	Jim Greer
Accounts Payable/Receivable/ Bookkeeper	Non-Elected	Sheila Graham
Auditor of Financial Statements	External	Campanella McDonald LLP
Christian Education Coordinator		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (8)	Vicki Nock
Sunday School Representative	Non-Elected	Abigail Ramirez
Minister		Scott Beckett
Church Personnel (M&P)		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (5)	Trudy Cameron
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (6)	Diane Kalina
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (3)	Kazie Killius
Vice President	December 31, 2022	Vacant
Communications Coordinator		
Elected Member	31-Dec-22	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Non-Elected	Phyllis Greer
Church Photographer	Non-Elected	Ross Roberts
Church Webmaster	Non-Elected	Sheila Graham
Pastoral Care		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022	Joan Cooke
Elected Member	December 31, 2022	Donna Pipes
Elected Member	December 31, 2022	Sue Hendry
Elected Member	December 31, 2022	Judy Armstrong
Elected Member	December 31, 2022	Arlene Graham
Outreach/Mission & Services		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (8)	Ross Roberts
White Gifts	Non-Elected	Linda Roberts
White Gifts	Non-Elected	Kathy Irvine
Roofs for the Roofless	Non-Elected	Joan Cooke
Regional Representative		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (3)	Rod Hunt
Property Coordinator		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (2)	Dan Broaddus
Rental Coordinator	Non-Elected	Diane Kalina / Sheila Graham
Non-elected - Front Gardener	December 31, 2022 (3)	Mary Lloyd Clifford
Stewardship		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (4)	Bob Kalina
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (6)	Ross Roberts
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (7)	Paul Maudsley
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (6)	Ellen McLean
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (4)	Phyllis Greer
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (5)	Trudy Cameron
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (4)	Rod Hunt
Treasurer/Par/Payroll	December 31, 2022 (2)	Jim Greer
Worship		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (4)	Mary Lloyd Clifford
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (5)	Jim Greer
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (5)	Vacant
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (5)	Paul Maudsley
Minister		Scott Beckett
Director of Music		Carole Falconer
Choir Representative	Non-Elected	Joan Yule
Decorating Sub Committee	Non-Elected	Mary Jane Whitehead
Decorating Sub Committee	Non-Elected	Linda Roberts
Board of Trustees		
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (3)	Jim Greer
Elected Member	December 31, 2022 (2)	Ross Roberts
Elected Member	December 31, 2023 (1)	Markus Kalina
Elected Member	December 31, 2023 (1)	Vicki Nock
Nominating Committee		
Past President	December 31, 2022 (4)	Diane Kalina
Hospitality Champion		
Champion	Non-Elected	Ross Roberts

Proposed Operating Budget for 2022

Trinity Operating Budget 2022					
	2021	2021		2022	
Item	Budget	Projected Actual		Budget	
Income					
Facilities Rental	19,000	4,346	Note 1	19,000	
GST/HST Rebate	3,150	4,893		4,000	
Return on Capital Funds	23,000	95,000	Note 2	40,000	
Total Offerings	70,000	59,277	Note 3	70,000	
Special Fundraising	14,380	1,340	Note 4	14,380	
Total Revenues	129,530	164,856		147,380	
Expenses					
Administration	5,500	4,976	Note 5	5,500	
Auditor	0	0		3,500	
Christian Education	750	0		1,500	
Church Personnel	114,205	113,770	Note 6	125,458	*
Communications	500	233		300	
GST/HST Expense	4,200	6,981		4,000	
Pastoral Care Committee	200	0		200	
UCC Assessment	5,000	4,661		5,000	
Property	39,650	26,443	Note 7	26,000	
Approved Expenditures	0	32,941	Note 8	10,000	*
Insurance	4,371	3,420		4,500	
Worship	500	0		500	
Stewards	580	0		900	
Other - fundraising (golf tournament)	3,000	0		3,000	
Total Expenses	178,456	193,425		190,358	
Projected Surplus (Deficit)	(48,926)	(28,569)		(42,978)	
Notes on projected actuals					
Note 1	Based on reduction of Rentals due to COVID				
Note 2	\$95,000 was the amount of funds that were transferred from the Investment account to actual funds in order to pay bills.				
Note 3	Total current PAR offerings + 2 months; collection plate estimated				
Note 4	Only fundraising for 2021- golf league				
Note 5	Includes cost of new laptop and new music licensing fees				
Note 6	YTD + 4 x recent payroll +\$750 for gifts and supply coverage 2022 includes 1.3% pay increase				
Note 7	YTD + Nov. and Dec. expenses				
Note 8	Includes Parking light, a/v system, new sign * estimated cost of paving front driveway				

We Need Help!

Have you got a couple hours a month to help Trinity Council by volunteering? We need volunteers to serve as Committee Members, Committee Chairs and on the Executive Council. There are only 9 council meetings per year, mostly held on the third Wednesday of the month except for in summer and in December. Committee Members have their own meetings lead by their respective Committee Chairs.

Our Council, led by President Phyllis Greer, has asked all current council members to remain in their positions again for 2022 because of the pandemic BUT there are several “exciting” vacancies open. We simply cannot operate within our constitution without a proper Executive Council.

Please give Phyllis or me a no-obligation call or email to discuss.

Please step up!



Diane Kalina, Secretary, Chair of M&P Committee, and Past President (responsible for Nominations)

416 720-6557 dkalina@biocatalystyorkton.com

Phyllis Greer, Council President

905-842-2789 phee55@hotmail.com

Bits and Pieces from Council

Oct 27 and Nov 24 meetings

1. Our Oct meeting was held in person, well-spaced in the Admin Building! We all wore our masks! It was great to see real people!
2. The AV system in the Sanctuary has been fixed/upgraded and we are back in business for in-person services.
3. 12 families were helped at Thanksgiving through the White Gift program. Many thanks to all who donated food and gift cards. Please remember the Christmas Drive.
4. The Tuesday morning Golf League raised \$1,295 this year. Golf is now over for the season.
5. It was passed that as of Dec 5, we will implement proof of double vaccinations for entry to services.
6. The Masons will be sponsoring a Santa Gift “Drive-Through” on the afternoon of Dec 5 for White Gift families.
7. The treasurer tried AGAIN, successfully (!) to send a trial amount of money to Roofs. Now he will send a larger amount in hopes the funds will get to those who need it.
8. A **deadline** for everyone’s submission for the **2021 Annual Report** is Jan 15, 2022. Please send it to Sheila by that date.

Stewards

As '21 comes to a close, and hopefully Co-vid
We wait to see if renters come, (if we're still on their grid!)
But as we wait for money flow, we must take care of mice
And squirrels and lights and parking lots
(Be careful of that ice!)

So once again we ask if you
Could join us now on PAR
Automatic donations by month
Are easiest by far!

Help guarantee we stay afloat
When we can't all attend
Your monthly pledge would help us out
We all win in the end!

It's easy to sign up today
Just ask Sheila or Jim
They have the form for you to sign
Can we count you IN??



The computer that the Stewards use to create our weekly deposit spread sheet has really been acting up. We are asking if anyone has a used computer lying around, preferably one with Microsoft Office and Wi-Fi ability, would you consider donating it to the Stewards?

Please call Sheila in the office.

Thanks!

RECAP OF TRINITY GOLF LEAGUE - 2021

We had our best year ever for our Trinity Golf League, even though we lost a total of six days due to Covid 19 and 3 days to rain, including the final day of the golf season.

With every golfer donating \$5.00 per game, we were able to collect \$1,295. Each player will receive a tax receipt at the end of the year for each game played.

We were very fortunate to gain three new players on a regular basis as well as several others who played on a casual basis. The owners of the golf course were extremely happy to host our league. It is hoped that by next June, when things hopefully are back to normal, we can once again hold our annual golf tournament, which has always been one of our major fun(d) raisers.



Our league is open to anyone who is interested in playing, regardless of their ability. To make it a little easier for high handicap players, we have a 'double par pickup' rule, which means once you have taken twice the number of strokes that represent par for that particular hole, you pick up your ball and go to the next tee. Because the course has no driving range, we also allow a 'mulligan' on the first hole and on the 18th, which is a long par 5.

If you or any of your friends are interested in joining us, you are more than welcome and you do not have to commit to playing every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. Let me know and I will gladly add your name to our e-mail list so we can let you know when the new season starts. All of our players are extremely friendly and you will have a chance to make many new acquaintances, many of whom are member of other churches in Oakville.

Ross Roberts



.....
A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n Mary."

WHITE GIFT

Firstly, thank you to those who dropped off Halloween treats at the Church office. This will allow us to fill goody bags for all the children at Christmas.

Like last Christmas and due to our present Covid situation, we will be asking for gift cards for our Christmas families in need. However, if anyone would like to purchase for an individual, please let Linda know and a name and ideas can be given. A list of suggested gift cards will be listed below.



We currently have 41 families and thanks to members of our Congregation and sponsors from outside, these families will have a joyous Christmas.

Also, we are reaching out, once again, for non-perishable food items to fill our pantry. A list is provided below.

GIFT CARDS SUGGESTIONS

EB GAMES OR ROBLOX	INDIGO/CHAPTERS	WALMART
GROCERY GIFT CARDS	WINNERS	SHOPPER'S
GAS CARD	McDONALD'S	TIM'S
MOVIE PASS	PIZZA PIZZA	VISA GIFT CARD

ANY OTHER GIFT CARDS WOULD ALSO BE MOST WELCOME – THANK YOU.

LIST OF GROCERY ITEMS NEEDED

Cereal	Pasta sauce	Peanut butter
Any type of noodles	Kraft dinner	Canned veggies
Drinking boxes	Small bottles of dish soap	Lunch box treats
Tooth paste/brushes	Hearty soups	Kleenex
Canned pasta	Canned fruit	T. P.
Pudding cups	Any other items will be most welcome.	

Without your support we couldn't make this happen. Our sincerest thanks to everyone for your continued support.

On behalf of all our families, thank you.

Linda & Kathy

Jason's Report

Bowling: (Chargers 01)

Oct 6: 3 st, 6 sp = 313 pts...Oct 13: 3 st, 2 sp = 285 pts

Oct 20: 5 st, 0 sp = 268 pts

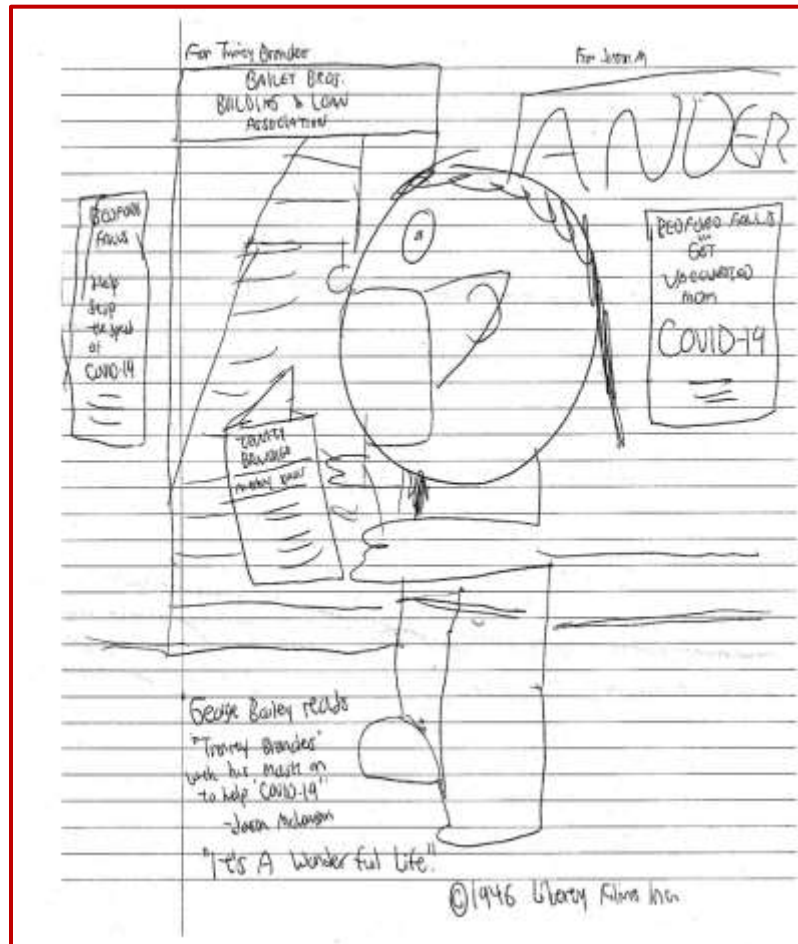
Oct 27: 4 st, 3 sp = 301 pts

Nov 3: 1 st, 5 sp = 250 pts

Nov 10: 3 sp, 1 sp = 219 pts

Nov 17: 4 st, 1 sp = 239 pts

On Sun Oct 17, Jason's bowling team held a bottle drive to raise funds to buy uniforms for athletes and coaches. They collected enough bottles and beer cans to raise \$1,207! A great effort!



The Legend of the Christmas Prayer

(Author unknown)

Once upon a Christmas time, long ago, a man who had a big heart, but little money, dreamt he could give his friends endless riches. When he awoke, the dream kept running through his mind, over and over. Finally, he asked himself: "If I could give my friends anything, what would I give?"

He smiled as he began to think of all the wondrous things he could buy for them. But then he thought: "I'm a happy man, yet I have none of those things." And he began to think that perhaps real wealth could not be measured in riches. Perhaps there were gifts of greater value than the things money could buy.

In the still of the night, he pondered these things and thought of Christmas and what it meant to him. Taking out his quill, he began to write on a parchment scroll.

On the first day of Christmas, I pray for you joy in abundance and laughter, for laughter cures our ills and joy makes our spirits soar.

On the second day of Christmas, I pray for you a sigh when you need one, for a sigh clears the heart as a cough clears the throat, and with a sigh comes acceptance of what we cannot change.

On the third day of Christmas, I pray for you tears when you need them, for tears clear the eyes to see the stars and cleanse the soul to let healing begin.

On the fourth day of Christmas, I pray for you serenity, for fights and wars start in individual breasts and that is where they must end.

On the fifth day of Christmas, I pray for you wisdom, for our priceless gift is the gift of choice- and we should use it well every day, in word and deed.

On the sixth day of Christmas, I pray for you patience, for most troubles pass if we wait them out, and success comes with persistence.

On the seventh day of Christmas, I pray for you courage, for there may be many pitfalls and dangers ahead and problems can only be solved when they are faced.

On the eighth day of Christmas, I pray for you compassion, for we cannot help others until we understand them, and we cannot understand them until we walk in their shoes.

On the ninth day of Christmas, I pray for you a willingness to work, for work turns dreams to reality- whether the dreams are ours or belong to those we can help.

On the tenth day of Christmas, I pray for you unwavering faith, for faith shapes our morals and our destiny and draws us closer to God.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, I pray for you a mind full of hope, for hope determines our attitudes, sets our goals, and creates our ideals.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, I pray for you a heart so full of love that every day you must give some away to those whose paths you cross.

And with each prayer, the man realised he was not giving a gift at all, but hoping that his friends would find the gifts they already had within them. Each time he wrote a prayer, a marvellous thing happened. It seemed to him that the prayer although offered for his friends, remained in his heart and produced in him the very thing he prayed for them.

The man copied his scroll and sent the Christmas prayer to special friends, and that is where the legend of the Christmas Prayer is lost in the mists of time.

The man was never heard of again but, over the years, the Christmas Prayer began to appear all over the world. People in obscure villages and big cities would receive at Christmas time a copy of the scroll from a friend. And so the wonder multiplied, until the story finally reached you.



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!