

TRINITY BRANCHES

Fall 2023



Trinity United Church, Oakville, is located on the Traditional Lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit, part of the Anishinaabe Nation

I Am Thankful For...

...the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

...the taxes I pay because it means that I am employed.

...the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

...my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

...a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means that I have a home.

...the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

...all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.

...my huge heating bill because it means that I am warm.

...the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means I can hear.

...the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

...the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I'm alive.

...weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive



Minister's Message

One of the problems that I have had at Trinity is filling all of the bookshelves. My office came with three great units, but especially when I first started there was no way I was going to be able to fill them all. I brought a lot of decorations and even some fiction titles that *might* be relevant to something I end up doing in ministry just to make the place seem a little fuller. As much as it is not that important, the look and feel of full book shelves is nice. I can remember offices of others ministers that I have been in and always felt full and satisfied looking at full shelves. And yet, I did not want to just go out and get books for the sake of it. Each book I have held onto has a specific purpose and role and history, and I appreciate the pruning of things I am never going to use or reference or enjoy again. You may have noticed a contradiction. Here I am at cross-purposes, desiring a robust collection of impressive tomes but also understanding that it is not a practical goal. Am I yearning to feel wiser and more accomplished through appearances? Am I losing out on good information when I set aside books to which I no longer feel connected?

This is not the first book collection I have ever had. When I was younger and shared a book collection with my brother and sister, we had an expanding collection. We had a set of bookshelves that were nearly always full as we collected and preserved books from years past alongside new acquisitions. Whether it was our (nearly) complete series of Redwall novels, the classics our uncle gave us one holiday, or the nature and science books that populated our non-fiction shelves, each book was part of a living record. They each spoke of the times and places in our lives when they were purchased or received, or the times in which we grew into being able to read them. At a certain point we were not really giving the books away. They could still be read and enjoyed, and even if they couldn't they still looked nice on the shelves. I have fragments of that collection still with me, since the collection was divided between us and a donation bin when it came time for the shelves to be cleared off.



God is actively working in our lives and books are a nice metaphor for that process. Sometimes the right book comes into our hands at the right time, and sometimes there is a moment in which it needs to be given away: we can trust that we are receiving what we need when we need it. These lives, after all, are an accumulation of the people and places that have touched us, and the filled (or unfilled) shelves in our lives symbolize some of the things that are important to us, whether that is because of the contents of the book or where it came from. If we believe that God is guiding us to the things and people we need to live and flourish in this life, the number of books in one's collection is not important. The journey that led to the collection in its current, perfect iteration is a reflection of our search for knowledge, the joy of connection, and the transformative power of story. Whether our collection rivals a library or is only a single volume, it still says something about us and where we have been. As I seek to arrange my office shelves in a way that brings me greater peace, may we all take this season of starting up and getting going to do something that brings us back in touch with our own story. Sometimes there isn't anything we can do when a shelf is empty or overflowing. But where we can, may we honour ourselves and what we need and strike the right balance to bring us peace.

With love, *Rev. Scott*

STEWARDS

The Stewards are sponsoring a **Soup's On** event on Sunday September 17 following service. Please plan to attend and enjoy good food and fellowship with your church family. (Maybe some of the men want to show off their soup-making and baking skills!)



As seen at the Bobby Cloutier Memorial Golf Tournament in June. Always remember PAR is available!



We are delighted to report that a member of the Seventh Day Adventists church tracked down someone in need of a used piano and they took away our old one from Fellowship Hall! Hope they enjoy the music!



WHITE GIFT

Our thanks are extended to those who have helped keep our pantry going over the summer months. Many of our families have required extra help with groceries and gift cards during these difficult times. We are happy that we are able to provide the necessities for them.

Two very happy little girls enjoyed their time at Ryerson United Church Camp this summer. Both are so looking forward to returning next summer where they rekindle friendships made during their stay. First time away from home, sleep out, sponge wars, cook outs, crafts, talent show, beach time, Bible study, and so much more were a first for one of them and she had a wonderful time. Thank you to everyone for allowing these little ones the experience of being away for a few days this summer.



Again, this year, we provided many families with gift cards to Walmart giving Moms the opportunity to purchase back to school supplies for their children.

Thanksgiving isn't far off and we will be helping many families with non-perishable food items and gift cards. We are very 'short' of a lot of items after the summer months and we are asking for your assistance to restock our pantry, please. Please watch your bulletins for a list of the most needed items.



We might be small, but we are mighty and with working together, we can provide our families with the required essentials to keep food on their tables.

Many thanks to everyone for your support. *Linda and Kathy*

Bobby Cloutier Memorial Golf Tournament

On June 25, after a long hiatus due to the Covid 19 epidemic, we were finally able to once again hold our golf tournament, which has always been one of Trinity's major fund raisers. In fact, this is the first time we have been able to hold the tournament which we decided to name in memory of Bobby who was a long-time member of Trinity as well as a choir member and an outfielder of the former Trinity Trihards softball team.

Linda and I want to sincerely thank Ellen MacLean for her help in reaching out to so many of Bobby's friends who have always supported our tournament in the past.

This was a first for many reasons. Firstly because of the name change and new dedication. Secondly because it is now an 18-hole event instead of a 9-hole event and lastly because we were unable to have an organized meal afterwards because we could not arrange for a shot gun start.

However, most people stayed around after completing their round and were able to enjoy and participate in a very successful silent auction.

We had a total of **57 people** take part in the tournament. The winners with a score of eight under par were Bill Russell, Wendell Stanley, Rick Wilson and Peter Basran.

In addition to the silent auction which netted almost \$1,600, we also had 13 people sponsor a hole at \$100 per hole. All of this coupled with a small markup on the actual cost to the players to participate in the tournament, we were able to net a total profit of **\$3,906.22** after expenses.

In addition to Ellen, we want to thank everyone who turned out to play golf, those nongolfers who joined us for a drink and something to eat, everyone who sponsored a hole and certainly everyone who donated items for the silent auction and/or prizes for players. In addition, we want to thank Rod and Leigh Anne Murdy for the great "loot" bags they supplied to everyone involved.

We also want to extend our thanks to the operators and the staff of the Oakville Executive Golf Course who always do an amazing job to help make this day such a great day and a successful fundraiser.

And a final very large thank you to our administrative assistant, Sheila Graham, who took care of all the e-transfer payments and kept the books in order. **We could not have done it without her help.**

It was our sincere pleasure to help arrange this tournament



Ross and Linda Roberts



Trinity Golf League, 2023

Another one of our annual fundraisers is the Trinity Golf League which takes place every Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM at the Oakville Executive Golf Course on the Fourth Line. This league runs from opening day, usually in April and ending when the course closes in November.

Anyone is welcome to join us and play as often as you are able. If you are interested in joining our group, please let me know and I can get your email and add you to the list.

You don't have to be a good golfer to join us, just enjoy the game. We also follow a "double par pick-up" approach to scoring so you don't get beaten up too badly! Power carts are available to rent but if you prefer to walk, the course is flat and not too long since this an executive Par 63 course.

Each player is asked to contribute \$5.00 per week for the game and this money goes to Trinity United Church to help offset our operating costs. At the end of the year each player receives a tax receipt for all monies they donated throughout the year. This has been a very successful year so far. Numbers vary week by week and in some cases, we have 16 or more people playing, most of whom then stay for lunch at the clubhouse where the choice of food is excellent.

There's still lots of time this season to participate!

Ross



Nancy's House Update

On behalf of **all Oakville United Churches**, Rev. Sheila Murray (St. John's United) visited Nancy's House, a second stage home for survivors of human trafficking to deliver a cheque for \$7795.99 to Jennifer Lucking, Executive Director and Jennifer Potter, Board Chair of Restorations Second Stage Homes.

Thank you to all the Trinity folks who contributed! It was a great joint effort!



** If you've never heard Carole speak, here is your chance. A very funny motivational speaker, the evening promises to be well worth the wait! Don't miss this event.

Get your tickets soon!



The poster features a dark brick background with blue and white confetti. At the top, 'Comedy NIGHT' is written in a white cursive font, with 'NIGHT' in large, bold, teal letters. Below this, the theme is 'STAYING BUOYANT IN THE TURBULENCE'. A teal banner on the right says 'Silent auction, raffles and door prizes, refreshments!'. On the left, icons for a clock, calendar, and house are next to the event details: 'Doors Open: 6:30 pm', 'Curtain Up: 7 pm', 'Wednesday September 27th, 2023', 'St. John's United Church', '262 Randall St. Oakville, ON', and 'office@stjohnsunited.ca 905-845-0551'. A large QR code is in the center, and a photo of Carole Bertuzzi Luciani holding tickets is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS: \$30', 'FEATURING CAROLE BERTUZZI LUCIANI', and 'Portion of Proceeds to Support Nancy's House A long-term transitional home for survivors of human trafficking & commercial sexual exploitation in Hamilton/Halton'. A wheelchair icon and the website 'www.stjohnsunited.com' are at the bottom left.

Join St. John's United Church in downtown Oakville for a comedy night with Carole Bertuzzi Luciani. A portion of the proceeds will support Nancy's House, a long-term transitional home in Hamilton for survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. www.stjohnsunited.com

Coming up this fall at

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Jesus film series
(Finding Jesus in film)

Movie at 7 p.m. Discussion at 9 p.m.

Sept 25- The Grand Budapest Hotel

Oct 30- Arsenic and Old Lace

Nov 27- Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore

Dear friends, we miss you!

Please come back and join us for some much needed fellowship.

When I was a teenager, there was a saying..."Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a car."

That may have some truth but I know for a fact that being with your Church Family in person can be so good for your soul!

Internet services are easy, but praying, singing and worshipping together, being with friends, enjoying a coffee, a treat and conversation after church is just more fun! Soup's On is coming soon! Homemade soup and baking!

What's better than that?

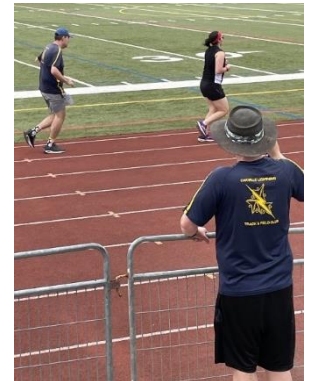
Time to rejoin the family!

We miss you! Come on back for a hug!

Jason's Report

Track and Field

July 8-Brantford meet-100m, 0:24:65 (5th); 200m, 0:53:96 (5th); javelin, 7.18m (3rd); Shot put, 5.89(4th); long jump, 1.6m (3rd): Aug 21- shot put, 5.8 m, running long jump-1.8m, 100M 0.28.42



A note from Jason ...July 16, 2023

I would say farewell to Abigail Ramirez and her family. So, I'm proud of Abigail. And she sees me swim at the Oakville Swim meet in 2018. So, I'll miss you, Abigail.

Sincerely, Jason McLaughlin

(Pictured: Abigail, Jason and some of the kids!)

The Last Laugh



YOU SAY... GOD SAYS...		
<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
It's impossible.	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Romans 8:1
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Romans 8:28
I'm not smart enough.	I will give you wisdom.	I Corinthians 1:30
I'm not able.	I am able.	II Corinthians 9:8
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	II Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Philippians 4:13
I can't manage.	I will supply all your needs.	Philippians 4:19
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	II Timothy 1:7
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Hebrews 13:5

Happy Thanksgiving

