

**Trinity-Clifton
Community of Faith
Charlottetown/Stratford**

Fall 2019
Volume 2, Issue 3



Trinity-Clifton News

Trinity-Clifton's New Horizons for Seniors Project

By Emily Bryant

A small group from Trinity applied for a grant last year through the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP), a federal grants and contributions program that supports projects designed by and for seniors who make a difference in the lives of others and their communities. Trinity-Clifton United Church was awarded a NHSP grant of \$24,900 for its project *Safer Spaces and Sensitive Social Support* to improve the function of and safety in the Trinity Church complex. A committee of Emily Bryant, Harry Hibbs, Judy Irwin, and Gordon Matheson guided the project and worked closely with two standing committees related to components of the NHSP Project: the Property and Pastoral Care Committees.

Some of the enhancements this grant supported are senior-friendly chairs, a congregational survey to guide sound enhancements for seniors, repair of broken sidewalks, replacement of concrete entrance steps, and installation of safety bars. In October, a pastoral care training program, *Befrienders*, was offered to help our congregation be more sensitive to and supportive of each other and those outside our church community.

We are extremely thankful for this NHSP grant and that the committee accessed it on Trinity's behalf. It helped make Trinity United Church safer, more accessible, functional, and welcoming to all, especially seniors.

This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, supplemented by in-kind administration and resources from Trinity United Church.

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*I'm so glad I
live in a world
where there are
Octobers.*

L.M. Montgomery

Anne of Green Gables

www.trinityclifton.org

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE REV. MEL MATHESON

At Trinity, Godly Play is part of what we do in our Sunday School classes, but Godly Play is for children of all ages. In Godly Play, small wooden figures of people and animals are used to tell stories. The people travel through deserts and rivers and up mountains. Animals swim in seas and float in a beautiful ark. Everyone wonders about the story. There are no right or wrong answers when we wonder. Every child's

thoughts are important. Next we have response time when we can play with the story sets or do crafts related to the stories. Sometimes we have a feast of crackers and water, just as we do in church. Special feasts might be cupcakes or apples.

Godly Play is full of fun!



Keep your face always toward the sunshine—the shadows will fall behind you. *-Walt Whitman*

The United Church was formed in 1925 by the merger of two large Canadian denominations, the Methodists and the Presbyterians, as well as the much smaller Congregationalists. Although only two-thirds of the Presbyterians joined the union (the rest carried on as the Presbyterian Church in Canada), the United Church still began its life as the largest Protestant church in Canada.

CHRISTMAS SEASON EVENTS AT TRINITY

Fri., Nov. 28: Lennie Gallant concert 7 PM

Sun., Dec. 1: First Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM

Fri., Dec. 6: John Gracie Concert 7 PM

Sun., Dec. 8: Advent Communion Service & White Gift Collection 10:30 AM

Sun., Dec. 15:

Service of Lessons and Carols 10:30 AM

Sing Noel, Confederation Centre of the Arts Children's Choir 3:00 PM

Clifton United Church Christmas Service 7 PM

Sun., Dec. 22: Youth-led Christmas Pageant 10:30 AM

Tues., Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Services: 4 PM Worship for All Ages; 7 PM Worship in Word & Song

Sun., Dec. 29: First Sunday after Christmas 10:30

Lord: it is time. The huge summer has gone by.
 Now overlap the sundials with your shadows,
 and on the meadows let the wind go free.

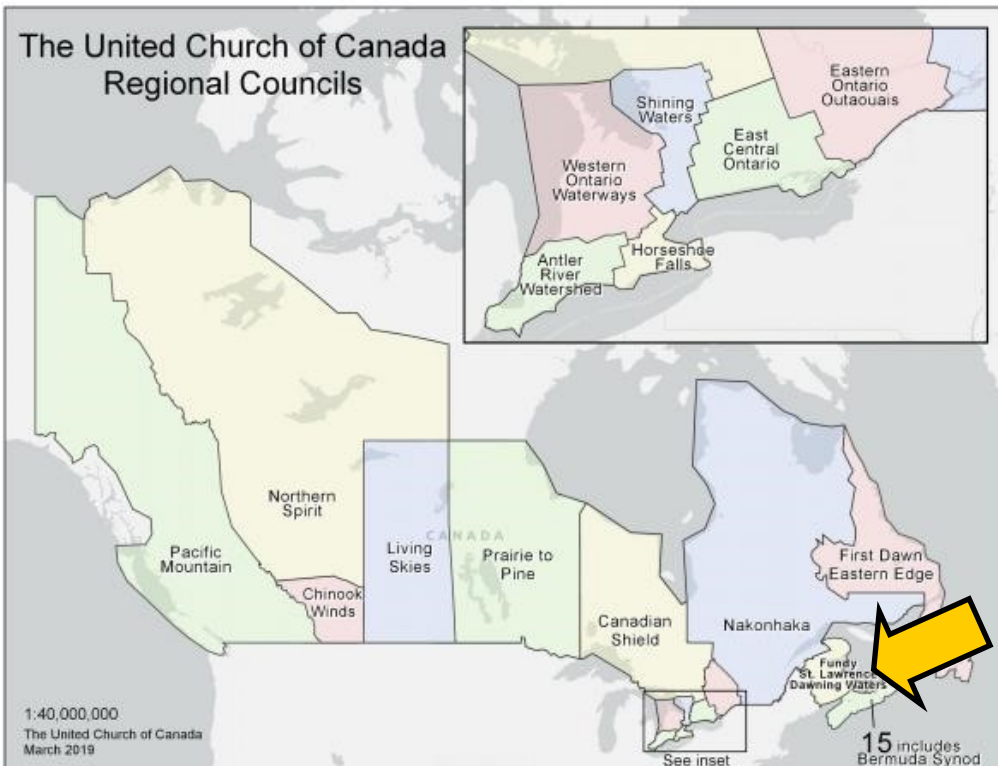


Command the fruits to swell on tree and vine;
 grant them a few more warm transparent days,
 urge them on to fulfillment then, and press
 the final sweetness into the heavy wine.

-Rainer Maria Rilke

REGIONAL COUNCILS AS OF MARCH 2019

A regional council is an administrative grouping of communities of faith in a local area. Laypeople and ministers meet to oversee the work of the church within each region. There are 16 regional councils in The United Church of Canada .



MUSICAL GOINGS-ON



Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 PM and Sundays 9:30 to 10:15 AM under the direction of Don Fraser. All are welcome.

DID YOU KNOW? You don't need to know how to read music to join choir.

Handbells ring out on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:30 PM under the direction of Kay Linkletter.



MEDITATION

*5h excerpt from the
UCCs Song of Faith*

We can accept our
mortality and finitude,
not as a curse,

but as a challenge to
make our lives and
choices matter.

Made in the image of
God,

we yearn for the fulfill-
ment that is life in
God.

Yet we choose to turn
away from God.

We surrender our-
selves to sin,

a disposition re-
vealed in selfishness,
cowardice, or apathy.

Becoming bound and
complacent

in a web of false de-
sires and wrong choic-
es,

we bring harm to
ourselves and others.

This brokenness in hu-
man life and commu-
nity

is an outcome of sin.

Sin is not only person-
al

but accumulates

to become habitual
and systemic forms

Spiritual Discernment



If anyone's will is to do
God's will, they will
know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am
speaking on my own authority. (John 7:17)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any
two-edged sword, piercing to the divisions of soul and of
spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts
and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a
worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling
the word of truth. (2 Timothy 1:15)

May your love abound more and more in knowledge and
depth of insight so that you may be able to discern what is
best. (Philippians 1:9-10)

Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what
you really love. It will not lead you astray. (Rumi)

A Quest for Meaning and Purpose

By Ginny McGowan

The word discernment has been heard in our community of
faith many times over the past few months. Just what is discern-
ment? I asked ?

From my research, discernment is generally understood to be a
process by which you reflect long and carefully when you are faced
with an important decision. Spiritual discernment is that and more.

Spiritual discernment can be described as a quest to discover the
Creator's plan. In addition to the quotes provided above, stories
about discerning God's call are familiar to us from scripture:

cont'd p.6...

THIS ISSUE'S TEAM

Welcome to the second issue of the Trinity-Clifton quarterly newsletter for 2019! Your editorial/writing team is coordinated by the Communications Committee: Virginia (Ginny) McGowan, Wendy Wright, Dorothy Murray, Ben Sinnamon, Callista Tan, and Debby Floyd. Guest contributors to this issue are Rev. Melanie, Matheson and Emily Bryant. Thanks to each and everyone!

Have you read or written something interesting to share with others in our community? We invite you to submit articles, poems, short stories, news, book reviews, recipes...but please keep your submission to 150–200 words. The editorial team reserves the right to, well, edit!

*For comments, suggestions, or submissions, please contact
Ginny: ginnymcgowan@gmail.com.*

Contents are current as of publication date.

GOOD READS

CONGREGATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

More than 2 million people worship in about 2,800 United Church congregations across Canada, with a further three in Bermuda, and including 317,000 known households.

A community of faith is any community of people within the United Church that

- gathers to explore faith, worship, and serve
- is recognized as a community of faith within the United Church by the regional council through a covenantal relationship

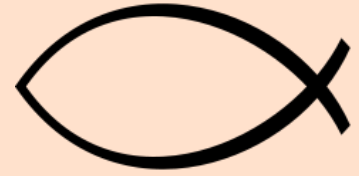
between the
community of
faith and the
regional council



Many kinds of communities of people may be recognized as communities of faith: congregations, pastoral charges, outreach ministries, chaplaincies, faith-based communal living, house churches, online communities, and others.

Communities of faith may be time-limited, transitional, or ongoing.

Adapted from <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/congregations-and-councils-united-church>



The Christian Fish, also called the Jesus Fish or Ichthys, was a secret symbol of early Christianity.

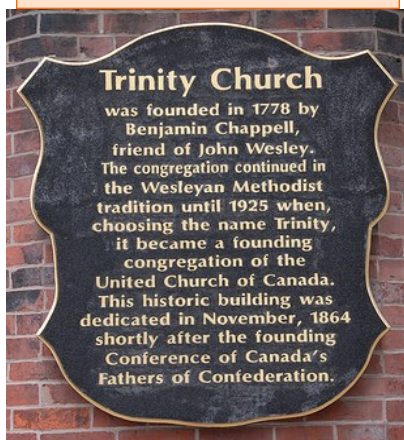
The Ichthys or fish symbol was used by early Christians to identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ and to express their affinity to Christianity. Ichthys is the Ancient Greek word for "fish." The "Christian fish," or "Jesus fish" symbol consists of two intersecting arcs tracing the outline of a fish (most commonly with the fish "swimming" to the left). It is said to have been used by early persecuted Christians as a secret symbol of identification because it could be quickly sketched in the dirt with the toe of your sandal and just as quickly scraped out again. The Greek word for fish (Ichthus) also forms the acronym "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior."

Followers of Christianity also identify with the fish as a symbol because fish

[https://
www.learnreligions.com/
christianity-symbols-
illustrated-glossary-
4051292](https://www.learnreligions.com/christianity-symbols-illustrated-glossary-4051292)

**WE ARE AN
AFFIRMING
CONGREGATION
WITHIN THE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA**

The Affirming Ministries Program is a network of primarily United Church ministries that declare themselves to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.



WORSHIP

Trinity United
Charlottetown
10:30 AM Sundays

Clifton United
Stratford
9:00 AM Sundays
(summer only)

All are welcome!

THE ICK FACTOR

Soon it will be the season to be sneezy, if, in fact, it is not upon us already!

Dr. Louise-Anne McNutt, associate professor of infectious disease epidemiology, School of Public Health, State University of New York, identified the germiest places in our homes.

One of the worst offending parts of a house? She calls it the Dungeon of Sickness: your tv room. Everyone uses, touches, or drops the remote control. It's crawling with germs.

She recommends that you use a disinfectant wipe or soap and water at least once a week to clean the remote's surface. If someone is sick, do this after each use.

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[from p. 4] in 1 Samuel 3 :1-10 where Samuel is called by God, in Matthew 4: 18-22 when Jesus called fishers to follow him, and in John 4:1-2 where the Samaritan woman at the well spread God's word.

For intentional spiritual discernment, the UCC suggests focus and deepen your exploration by capturing your insights in a notebook or journal. Clarify your thinking with the help of resources such as are found here: <https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/entering-ministry/discerning-call-lead> (copy and paste in your browser).

Although that link is about call to ministry, the process of spiritual discernment is as applicable to an individual search for God' call outside of that purpose. That website includes a number of helpful resources that will support you on your discernment journey. Go ahead. Discern your true purpose!