

Trinity-Clifton Pastoral Charge
Charlottetown/Stratford
Prince Edward Island

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Trinity-Clifton News

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY BY CO- CHAIR PHILIP FLOYD

The Ad Hoc Committee was formed in the spring of 2018 with the Church Council approving its existence at their meeting on June 7th, 2018. The committee was formed in relation to comments and discussion from the 2018 AGM and further discussion at Church Council on how to assist with the future sustainability of the church. This, then, became our committee's mandate: to look at options with regard to our church property that will secure the future sustainability of the church.

The Ad Hoc Committee is made up of Co-Chairs David White and Philip Floyd, Barbara Prowse, Chair of Council, Harry Kielly, Graeme Linkletter, Vicki Allen-Cook, and Errol Andrews, with Rev. Cathie Crooks offering ministerial support. We gratefully acknowledge the work of former Ad Hoc Committee member Ken MacDonald.

Our first informational session for the whole congregation will be held following morning worship on Sunday, February 3rd. At that time, the Ad Hoc Committee will share the information we have gathered and the work we have accomplished over recent months and will consider, with the congregation, our next steps.

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*Make a joyful noise
unto the Lord!*

◆ Psalm 984

By popular demand, Suzanne Campbell, Don Fraser, and Rev. Cathie Crooks will team up again this winter/spring for more Sunday morning worship services of Reflections and Gospel Songs.



AFFIRMING ACTIONS

On February 14, 2019, Trinity-Clifton Pastoral Charge celebrates their 3rd anniversary as an Affirming Ministry. In Oct. and Nov., 2018, we held four meetings with community partner groups and individuals to learn of their issues and concerns for members of the LGBTQ2S community in PEI. One immediate action that resulted from those meetings was that Affirm was able to financially support Ca-

nadian Mental Health ASSIST training (suicide intervention) for one Youth Group facilitator through PEERS Alliance (previously AIDS PEI). We are deeply grateful for these continuing relationships. We will use the issues and concerns we heard in those conversations to guide our work in the coming year. We look forward to sharing our 2019 Action Plan with the Trinity-Clifton congregation in the days ahead. - **By Val Downe for Affirm**

“For the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth: That Love is the ultimate goal to which man (sic) can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man (sic) is through love and in love.” Victor Frankl (1905–1997): neurologist, psychiatrist, Holocaust survivor, and author of *Man's Search for Meaning*.

REV. CATH'S CORNER

As this issue of the Trinity-Clifton News goes to print, poetry-lovers from around the world mourn the passing of Mary Oliver. In love with the natural world, its beauty and mystery, Mary Oliver was a modern-day mystic who saw in the ordinary the extraordinary, in the mundane the profound, in the material things of this world the spiritual dimensions of all creation. Mary Oliver has left us with her ‘instructions for living’: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it. Though her ‘instructions for living’ encourage us to hold sacred the natural world, how might they also encourage us to hold sacred the beloved community of Trinity-Clifton of which we are a part? Where do we find beauty and mystery in our very midst? Thank you, Mary Oliver.

EVENTS AT TRINITY (JAN. TO MAR. 2019)

COMPILED BY DEBBY FLOYD

Sat. Jan. 19th: Charlottetown Area Christian Council Week of Prayer for Christian Unity interdenominational breakfast. Tickets \$18 from the office.

Sun. Feb. 3rd: Ad Hoc Committee on Future Sustainability Information Gathering immediately after worship in the Sanctuary.

Sun. Jan. 27th: Communion Sunday at 10:30 AM worship service.

Tues. Feb. 5th: Supper Club Dinner at 6:00 PM. The speaker is Allan Edwards who will tell us about his recent trip to China. Cost is \$10/person. Tickets available

Sun. Feb. 17th: Gospel Songs led by Suzanne Campbell during worship.

Tues. Mar. 5th: Supper Club Dinner at 6:00 PM. The speaker is Dr. Heather Keizer who will talk about the state of the mental health care system in PEI. Cost is \$10/person. Tickets available at church office.

Sun. Mar. 31st: Special music during worship, led by Emily and Vans Bryant .

Sunday School Schedule: *Godly Play* on Jan. 6, 13; Feb. 3, 10; Mar. 3, 10, 31; *Whole People of God* on Jan. 20, 27; Feb. 17, 24; Mar. 17, 24.

Please check the website and / or the Bulletin to confirm this information and for other events occurring at Trinity-Clifton in January, February, and March 2019.

THE WINDOWS by Ginny McGowan

The image of the North Window #3 shown in the last issue of *Trinity-Clifton News* contains intriguing symbolism. The title of the window is “Blessed Hope.” Examine it carefully. What message does the artist mean to convey and how?

In the left light, we see a man holding a sea anchor complete with chains. From Hebrews 6:18-19, we know that the anchor is a symbol of safety and steadfastness; its meaning is simply “hope.” Further, the man’s robe is red, symbolizing the Passion of Christ: his suffering and his sacrifice.

A woman robed in blue and gold appears in the right light; she holds a baby tenderly. Blue is generally taken as the colour of Mary and symbolizes heaven, hope, sincerity, and piety. Gold is illuminating, sacred, and durable; it’s associated with the sun, incorruptibility (it doesn’t rust), and the highest stage in spiritual development. Did you notice that the man’s robe is lined with gold? [See p.6...]

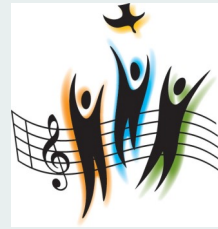
FROM THE PEW BY WENDY WRIGHT

DON & FLORENCE WONNACOTT. Don has been coming to Trinity as long as he can remember. He grew up in a house on Upper Prince, where he and Florence still live today. His earliest memory is his grandfather pulling him in a wooden sleigh to Sunday School. Florence attended from 1944 for a few years during schooling and college and later joined the church in 1956. Trinity is a very social experience for Florence and Don. It provides both community and religious support. Don says that all of his school friends have passed and the church is what remains. Trinity is family. They talked about noticing when someone hasn’t been there for a bit and checking up with each other when that happens.

They have many fond memories... getting married, their children’s baptisms. It used to take two carloads to get the entire family to church on Sundays; they used to fill the entire row. They’ve sat in that same pew since before they were married. A funny story they recounted involved another congregation member’s strand of pearls coming unstrung and bouncing around all over the floor during a service.

Don and Florence have both been quite involved in the church over the years. They both taught Sunday School: Don for at least 25 years. Don has also served on committees including stewardship and property and was appointed to trustees. He also represented the church with the PEI district of Canadian Bible Society. In addition to teaching Sunday School, Florence has been involved with UCW, though to a lesser extent these days. I also learned that Don was instrumental in having the big teddy bears placed up by the pipe organ in the sanctuary. He thought it would please the children. Having spoken with a few children, I can say it has certainly delighted them!

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.

Don & Florence



MEDITATION

*3rd excerpt from
the UCC's Song of
Faith: (2006):*

We witness to Holy
Mystery that is Whol-
ly Love.

God is creative and
self-giving,

generously moving
in all the near and
distant corners of the
universe.

Nothing exists that
does not find its
source in God.

Our first response to
God's providence is
gratitude.

We sing thanksgiving.

Finding ourselves in a
world of beauty and
mystery,

of living things, di-
verse and interde-
pendent,

of complex patterns
of growth and evolu-
tion,

of subatomic parti-
cles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the
Creator,
the Maker and Source
of all that is.

CHURCH COUNCIL: THE AFFIRM COMMITTEE

Affirming Ministries are congregations, presbyteries, Conferences, educational institutions, and other ministries within the United Church that publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Although Affirming Ministries make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their

commitment to justice is far broader.

Our committee members for 2018 were Valerie Downe and June Jenkins Sanderson (Co-Chairs), Jane Farquharson (Recording Secretary), Heather Martin, Rev. Ian MacLean, and Mary Anne Burke Matheson. Rev. Cathie Crooks provided ministerial support.

- BY VAL DOWNE FOR THE
AFFIRM COMMITTEE



What is "A Song of Faith"?

"This statement of faith seeks to provide a verbal picture of what The United Church of Canada understands its faith to be in its current historical, political, social, and theological context at the beginning of the 21st century. It is also a means of ongoing reflection and an invitation for the church to live out its convictions in relation to the world in which we live...This statement...attempts to reflect the spirit of The United Church of Canada and to respond to various defining elements in our social, political, and historical context, including the place of the church in society, the cultural and intellectual setting in which we find ourselves, the meaning of 'truth,' the impact of the market economy on our daily lives, and the growing issue of the meaning of 'security.'...

This is not a statement for all time but for *our* time. In as much as the Spirit keeps faith with us, we can express our understanding of the Holy with confidence. And in as much as the Spirit is vast and wild, we recognize that our understanding of the Holy is always partial and limited. Nonetheless we have faith, and this statement collects the meaning of our song."

(Excerpt from Preamble to UCC's *A Song of Faith*)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MEN'S GROUP

The Trinity-Clifton Men's Club comprises 13 members who, with the United Church Women, organize Tuesday night supper meetings and the annual take-out lobster supper. They also organize the annual plant sale and cover taxi fares for those who need transportation to attend worship services. If you would like to help, contact Mario Zirone at 902-367-2248.—BY BEN SINNAMON

THIS ISSUE'S TEAM

Welcome to the first 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 **Philip Floyd, Val Downe, and Bev Bishop. Rev. Cathie Crooks** gave us the lovely piece about poet Mary Oliver. 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

This issue's book review was contributed by Bev Bishop on behalf of The Social Justice Reading Group.

Do you enjoy reading thought-provoking books, meeting interesting people, and engaging in stimulating conversations? Why not come to our next book club meeting? We gather four times per year to read and discuss books related to social justice issues.

In the past we've explored topics such as residential schools, homelessness, food security, racism, LGBTQ2+ issues, dying with dignity, and women's rights.

The book club is open to all. We invite you to come along, bring a friend, and join in the

conversation.

Hope to see you there!

Feb 6th at 1:30 PM in the Trinity UC Parlour.

In honour of Black History Month, we chose the novel *Americanah*, written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This novel tells the story of a young Nigerian woman, Ifemelu, who immigrated to the US to attend university. The novel traces Ifemelu's life in both countries, threaded by her love story with high school sweetheart Obinze. This novel deals with race and migration and cultural identifications.

For our May meeting selection, we will meet [see p. 6...]



The Christian church is often represented as a ship under sail. In fact, in a 4th century document, the *Apostolic Constitutions*, the faithful are admonished to construct their churches in the shape of a ship, bow facing east, the building long and narrow, and the clergy seated near the middle as per a ship's captain.

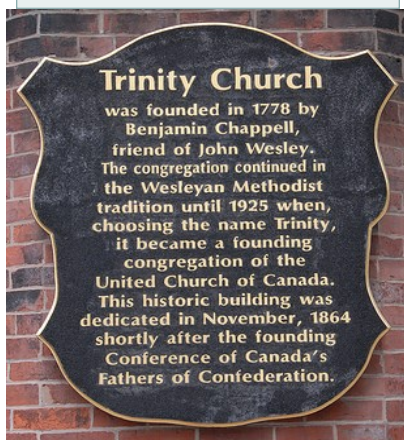
It's no coincidence that the Latin word for ship (*nave*) is used to describe that area of the church in which the congregants assemble.

In one of Trinity's windows in the chapel (corridor side) is an example of this image of the church as a ship on stormy seas. Can you find it?



**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!

GOOD READS CONTINUED...

[from page 5]...

May 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the Trinity Parlour

The May 2019 meeting of the Social Justice Reading Group will discuss *The Underground Girls of Kabul*.

The Underground Girls of Kabul was written by investigative journalist Jenny Nordsberg. This novel explores *bacha posh*: girls who grow up as boys in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, where society is ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as a failure. This journalist constructs a dramatic account of Afghan women and girls clandestinely living on the other side of the gender divide that grants half of its population no rights and little freedom.

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THE WINDOWS CONTINUED...

[from p. 3]... Interestingly, the image on the woman's forehead is not a star; it's a heart. The heart in Christianity is understood as the locus of physical and spiritual being, representing feelings such as compassion, understanding, affection, and love. Images of Jesus' mother Mary most often depict her with a star on her forehead, however, reflecting her ancient title "Star of the Sea (*Stella Maris*)" in the Roman Catholic Marian veneration, an allegory of her role as a guiding star and protector of seafarers. It's also an old name for the North Star, *Polaris*.

One of the windows on the south side of the church shows a woman with a star on her forehead, although she is robed in purple (associated with mourning, as in Lent), gold, and green, not blue as is usually associated with images of Mary.

Put all these symbols together. What does the imagery in the north window say to you now?