

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

**05 April 2019  
Volume 2, Issue 2**



# Trinity-Clifton News

## **The Little White Church on the Hill: Clifton United Church**

**By Judy Irwin**



Clifton United Church in Stratford was built in 1847 as a Methodist Chapel. It is a small, quaint, wooden structure with no plumbing or electricity, but holds regular 9:00 AM services from June to October every year. It is located just off East River Drive in Bunbury, a few minutes from the Hillsborough Bridge.

The church seats about 65 people comfortably (including the “Choir Corner,” depending on the season and the

weight of clothing) but is known to hold more at special services like Christmas. We do have a propane heater to take off the chill for our 7:00 PM Christmas service and we get light from lanterns and flashlights.

Our services are usually preceded by a hymn sing of favourites chosen by the congregation from our “Little Red Song Book.” As the old pump organ no longer works, we must resort to a battery-powered keyboard. Nonetheless, Clifton folk like to “lift the rafters”!

Every May, members of the congregation form a work party to clean up the dust and dirt as well as any debris and mess little critters have left during the winter. We tidy up the property, including our flowerbed and cemetery, and then reward ourselves with a trip to Robins afterwards!

## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

Clifton UC.....	1
The Children's Place....	2
Inspiring Quote.....	2
Rev. Cath's Corner.....	2
Upcoming Events.....	2
From the Pew.....	3
Of Doubt & Faith.....	4
Meditation.....	4
Church Council.....	4
This Issue's Team.....	5
Good Reads.....	5
An Affirming Congregation.....	6
Worship.....	6
Church Office.....	6
Not-so Random Thoughts.....	6

**REMEMBER** to confirm dates for events by checking at the office or on the web-site. Information for the events listed is current as of the date of newsletter publication but are subject to change.

**[www.trinityclifton.org](http://www.trinityclifton.org)**

**Like our Facebook page!**

## **PUBLICATION NEWS**

The newsletter will not be published over the summer months. Our next issue will be September 2019. Deadline for submissions: Aug. 15th., 2019.

## THE CHILDREN'S PLACE BY REV. MELANEY MATHESON

Hey Kids!

You are an important part of our church.

That's why we have special programs just for you.

Our Sunday School program helps you learn about God and what it means to live a life of faith.

We combine story telling, crafts, games and Bible work using Godly Play and the Whole People of God curriculums.

Youth have their own program, combining Bible stories with discussions about real-life realities.

Like singing? Great. This spring we are forming a children's choir that will practice right after worship May 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Everyone will get to hear you sing on June 2nd at our Sunday School Celebration Service.

Youth singers will practice June 2nd, 9th, and 16th to sing at the DiverseCity service June 23rd.

Hope you can come.

See you at Trinity!



### REV. CATH'S CORNER

As I write this reflection, the winds are howling 'round me and windows are rattling with each powerful gust. Wintery weather is slow to take its leave this year, yet somehow the grey, cold air outside is a fitting context in which to travel these last Lenten days. The stark realities of Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem mirror the stark realities of our world's suffering: children separated from their parents at the border; the earth and oceans groaning for renewal; violence in a place of prayer. Yet, the promise of resurrection awaits us. As we wait for blue skies and warm breezes, for the beauty of trees in bloom and flowers, let us remember the life-giving, transforming proclamation of Easter. Let us renew our commitment to be agents of Life as Christ rises in our midst. May it be so.



Be the change you want to see in the world.

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

## EVENTS AT TRINITY (APRIL TO JUNE 2019)

### COMPILED BY DEBBY FLOYD

Apr. 14: **Palm Sunday**, 10:30 AM

Apr. 18: **Maundy Thursday Service**, 7:00 PM

Apr. 19: **Good Friday Service**, 10:30 AM

Apr. 21: **Easter Sunday Service**, 10:30 AM

Apr. 28: **Camper Sunday Service**, 10:30 AM

May 1 to 5: **ECMAs** are in Charlottetown. Trinity is hosting events on Friday May 3rd and Saturday May 4th:

May 3: Contemporary Roots, 6:30 PM

May 4: Classical Showcase, 3:00 PM

May 4: Warner Roots, 6:30 PM

May 12: **Christian Family Service**, 10:30 AM

May 26: **Gospel Song Service** featuring Suzanne Campbell and Don Fraser, 10:30 AM

Jun. 1: **Trinity Lobster Supper**, Pickup beginning at 3:30 PM. Please note that the Lobster Supper is on a Saturday, not a Wednesday.

Jun. 2: **Sunday School Celebration Service**, 10:30 AM

Jun. 8: **Trinity Plant Sale and Bake Sale**, 9:00 AM

Jun. 16: **Communion Service**, 10:30 AM

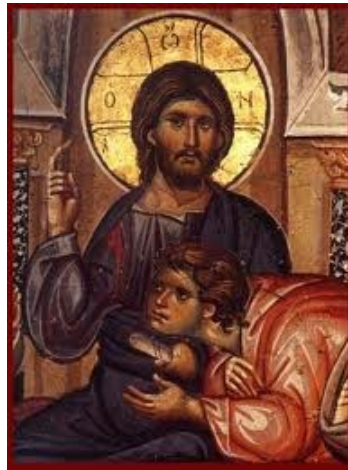
Jun. 23: **DiverseCity Sunday Service**, 10:30 AM

Jul. 21: **Pride Service**, 10:30 AM

## Late Fragment

*And did you get what  
what you wanted from this life, even so?  
I did  
And what did you want?  
To call myself beloved, to feel myself  
Beloved on the earth.*

--Raymond Carver



## FROM THE PEW BY WENDY WRIGHT

**Mim MacInnis and Jackie McKinnon** started attending Trinity in May 2018. Mim is an ICU nurse at the QEH; Jackie works within the Parks and Recreation department for the City of Charlottetown. Jackie and Mim have been together for 21 years and have two beloved cocker spaniels, Faith and Chance.

Jackie grew up in the Catholic church and has been an active member over the years. Mim grew up in the Presbyterian church and was quite involved when she was younger. As a couple, they occasionally attended church on special occasions, but never felt a belonging. Faith is a major part of who they are individually and as a couple. When they learned that Trinity is an Affirming Church, they decided to give it a try. They haven't missed a service since that first one—except when out of town.

Trinity means family and faith to Mim and Jackie. From day one, they felt welcomed with open arms. Each week, someone new comes and introduces themselves. They feel very much a part of our community. They said that they can *feel* that Trinity is Affirming, not just in name, but in action. They've had friends and family also start attending the church because they've had such positive experiences.

One very special memory is their wedding day. Jackie and Mim were married at Trinity on September 7, 2018. Another special memory is the first day they met Rev. Cathie and felt the genuine warmth of her welcome. Other favourite memories include services with large youth components, particularly the recent youth-led service in March. The Diverse-City Day service is another standout for Jackie and Mim. They were especially moved by the music of the Stratford Elementary School Choir and the life-story shared by Basel Al Rashdan, the Syrian boy who immigrated to Canada with his family in 2015.

Jackie and Mim noted that many of the additional worship opportunities, such as bible studies, occur during the day when shift workers may not be able to attend. They would like to see some evening options.

## 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.

Jackie & Mim



## MEDITATION

*4th excerpt from  
the UCCs Song of  
Faith: (2006):*

Each part of crea-  
tion reveals unique  
aspects of God the  
Creator,

who is both in crea-  
tion and beyond it.

All parts of creation,  
animate and inani-  
mate, are related.

All creation is good.

We sing of the Crea-  
tor,

who made humans  
to live and move

and have their be-  
ing in God.

In and with God,

we can direct our  
lives toward right  
relationship

with each other  
and with God.

We can discover our  
place as one strand  
in the web of life.

We can grow in wis-  
dom and compas-  
sion.

We can recognize all  
people as kin.



## CHURCH COUNCIL: PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee is responsible for repair and maintenance of buildings and grounds, including capital initiatives. They also implement and monitor safety and security measures and energy efficiency measures. Finally, their mandate includes maximizing building accessibility.

You'll recall from the annual report that this committee is very active.

We'll explore the range of their activities in this and the next newsletter. There's so much to report!

In 2019, we'll see new LED lights in the Sanctuary, repairs to and painting of the stained glass window sashes, step replacement, sidewalk repairs, and new Chapel floors.

*From contributions by Graeme Linkletter.*



## Of Doubt and Faith

By Ginny McGowan

doubt—*noun* 1. feeling of uncertainty; an undecided state of mind. (Canadian Oxford Dictionary, 2nd ed., p. 449)

Doubt, said Pope Francis, is a sign you want to know God better and more deeply: “We do not need to be afraid of questions and doubts because they are the beginning of a path of knowledge and going deeper; one who does not ask questions cannot progress either in knowledge or in faith” (Cindy Wooden, Nov. 23, 2016, *Crux*).

Madeleine L'Engle, author of one of my favourite childhood books *A Wrinkle in Time*, observed: “The minute we begin to think we know all the answers, we forget the questions, and we become smug like the Pharisee who listed all his considerable virtues, and thanked God that he was not like other men... Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself.”

Doubt is rarely mentioned—we're usually quite uncomfortable talking about it. What do you think? Is there room for doubt in our faith community?



## 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 **Judy Irwin, Rev. Mel Matheson, Graeme Linkletter, and Rev. Cathie Crooks**. 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](mailto:ginnymcgowan@gmail.com).  
Contents are current as of publication date.*

---

## GOOD READS



*This issue's book review is contributed by Ginny McGowan.*

In the Lenten season, our thoughts and prayers take on new meanings as we answer God's call to action in preparation for Easter Week.

When I was a child, I gave up the usual—candy—and swore not to fight with my brother. The first was easy, the second not so much. I've often thought why this

was so.

I recently read an interesting little book that helped me to see more clearly. It also helped me understand the patterns of my reactions and interactions with others. It's called habit.

In *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business*, author Charles Duhigg explores the fascinating science that explains why habits exist (*Cont'd p. 6*)



The crest of the United Church of Canada is a spiritual and historic reminder. See if you can find these symbols:

**Oval shape:** like a fish, an early Christian symbol.

**St. Andrew's cross:** the first letter of the Greek symbol for Christ forms an X.

**Four corners:** three symbols associated with the founding communions of the United Church: Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian.

**Dove:** the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10), whose transforming power is a mark of Methodism.

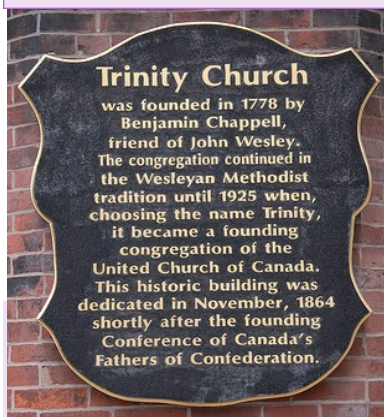
**Burning bush:** symbol of Presbyterianism (Exodus 3:2).

**CHALLENGE:** What do the Latin words "ut omnes unum sint" mean?

(HINT: John 17:21)

## 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)...and how they can be changed. Duhigg doesn't offer a prescription; rather, he acknowledges that habits differ from person to person and from behaviour to behaviour. He suggests an overarching framework: 1-Identify the routine, 2-Experiment with rewards, 3-Isolate the cue, and 4-Have a plan.

Changing some habits can be harder than others, and change can take a long time, with many repetitions and some failures.

This got me thinking. When we consider our community of faith, what habits have we, as a congregation, fallen into that impede our growth and stand in the way of change? Could this framework help us transform our community?

Charles Duhigg, 2012, ISBN 978-0-385-66976-4 (pbk), Anchor Press.

**Office:** 220 Richmond St, Charlottetown, PE C1A 1J5  
**Office hours:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday.  
**Telephone:** (902) 892-4114 **Website:** trinityclifton.org  
**Email:** trinityunited@eastlink.ca

## NOT-SO RANDOM THOUGHTS from The Editor

As we prepared this newsletter, a terrible tragedy unfolded in Christchurch, New Zealand: 50 people were gunned down and more injured as they gathered in prayer at their place of worship.

It's more than our hearts and minds can bear.

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of hearing "our thoughts and prayers are with you" when these things happen—in a world where anger too often hits with a bullet.

Mind you, I'm not downplaying the role of prayer.

I'm asking for action. WWGD?

**HINT:** See our inspirational quote for this issue and the last line of the meditation.

