

Trini Tidings 2016



Spring

Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie, MB

Phone: 204-857-4471

Fax: 204-857-4859

e-mail: trinityu@mts.net

Website:

www.trinityunitedportage.ca

Trinity Mission Goal:

"Open our hearts and minds
to welcome each person
as a child of God."

Trinity's 20th Annual Pork BBQ

Friday, June 3, 2016

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Pork BBQ, Salads & Desserts

Trinity Auditorium

Cost: Adults \$12.00

Children \$5.00

Takeout available

Bring your friends, family &
co-workers!

Please watch for your
opportunity to
sign up and
assist with this
time of
fellowship and
fundraising!



COMING UP IN SUNDAY WORSHIP at TRINITY

*Sunday Services and
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.*

May 15, 2016

Pentecost:

God is Making a Mess
Communion and Handivan Day

May 22, 2016

Perspectives Under
a Prairie Sky

May 29, 2016

Sunday School Celebration
Sundae Sunday!

June 5, 2016

"Something From Nothing"
by Phoebe Gilman

June 12, 2016

"The Velveteen Rabbit"
by Margery Williams
Communion and Handivan Day

June 19, 2016

"God is in the Between"
by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

June 26, 2016

"Roxaboxen"
by Alice McLerran

The Portage Ukrainian
Nursery School
invites you to their
4th Annual Art Show



**Saturday, May 14
1-3 p.m.**

Trinity Auditorium

This year the children are
making Jackson Pollock-style
splatter paintings, collaborating
at the paint easel with their
parent-helpers and exploring
their nursery school world
through the lens of a camera.
Each class is working on larger
group pieces that will be up for
silent auction. Come and meet
our artists as they proudly
display their work!



Trinity's Special Events Calendar

**Ukrainian Nursery School
Art Show Exhibit**
Saturday, May 14
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Trinity Treasures Sale
Fri., May 27, 4 - 7:00 p.m.
Sat., May 28, 9 a.m. - noon

Sunday School Windup
Sunday, May 29

20th Annual Pork BBQ
Friday, June 3
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday Breakfast
Saturday, June 11
8:30 to 10 a.m.

**Games Night
Picnic in the Park**
Monday, June 20
6:00 p.m.

Pool Party
Splash Island
Thursday July 14
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday School Wind Up

Please join us after
worship **Sunday,
May 29**, for the
ever popular



Sundae Sunday! Ice cream and
a plethora of toppings will be
available to help us celebrate
the last day of Sunday school
until the fall! Cost will be a
toonie, or by donation. Hope
you come! *Nut and dairy free
options will be available.*

Breakfast at Trinity

One more chance to enjoy a
delicious breakfast
with your friends
at Trinity before
the summer break.



Don't miss out on **June 11** from
8:30 to 10 a.m. Cost is by
donation and everyone is
welcome.

Trinity's Memorial Fund



Summer is a time for weddings and family reunions which bring people together often across great distances. It is a time to remember our roots and the ties of family and friendship that connect us. It is also a time when our thoughts naturally turn to those who are no longer with us. We remember their laughter, their smiles, their stories and we know that they remain part of the roots that keep us grounded even if they are no longer present with us in the same way anymore.

At Trinity, our Memorial Fund is one of the ways that we celebrate those who have blessed our community with their life and work, their laughter and their stories. It helps us to remember that the church's family reunion is never limited to those who are in the room with us but always includes the community of the faithful throughout time and space.

We rejoice in the life and witness of the following members of our church family in whose memory memorial donations have been received since March 2016.

*Grant Harkness
Mildred Zimmerman
Aileen Young
Dorothy Lewis
Elsie Mulder*

"Wasted time is usually good soul time." - Thomas Merton

Rock Lake United Church Camp

Church camp is a wonderful way to experience God in nature and community. From a two day camp for Grandparents/Parents and Tots (ages 4-6) through the Leadership Development Week (age 14+) there is something for children and youth of all ages. Located near Pilot Mound, Manitoba, the camp offers swimming, canoeing, archery, crafts, stories, campfires and so much more. More information and on-line registration is available at www.rocklake.com. If cost would be a factor in not sending your child to camp, please let



us know at the church office and we will organize some support.

Games Night Picnic needs your help!

Here's how you could help!

- Help is especially needed to come and play a good game of baseball.
- Help set out food – for \$2 participants enjoy a picnic supper.
- Be a friendly helper – might put you on mosquito repellent duty!



If you have an hour or 2 on **Monday, June 20**, please be in touch with

Ferne Green (204-857-3671) and she'll put you to work. Picnic is planned for 6 p.m.

TRINITY TREASURES Sale X



May 27 & 28, 2016

Trinity will have another "Vintage Treasures Sale" in the auditorium on **Friday, May 27, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. & Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.**

We invite you, in your spring cleaning process, to consider saleable items as donations to the sale, and you can bring them to Trinity by May 25. **Furniture and other large items will be accepted starting May 26.** We will not be picking up items, and clothing will not be accepted. Any valuable items considered to be beyond the scope of the sale criteria will be set aside on a "Silent Auction" table. Direct any questions to Carol at 204-857-8412 or the office at 204-857-4471.

UPDATE 2016

Trinity Funerals & Baptisms
since the March 2016
TriniTidings

Funerals

James Daniel "Jim" White
March 24, 2016

Elsie Myra Evelyn Mulder
March 31, 2016

Eileen Marie Dyer
April 1, 2016

Geraldine Evelyn Thompson
April 9, 2016

Mary Isabel Berg
April 17, 2016

Aileen Minnie Young
April 25, 2016

Baptisms

Listening towards Change

Reflections by Beth Kerr

On April 30, a group from Trinity joined a United Church group at the former Portage Indian Residential School on Long Plain First Nation (now known as the Rufus Prince Building). This gathering was part of our response to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process (check out www.trc.ca for more information) which encourages all Canadians and especially the churches like ours who were involved with Residential Schools to learn about what happened in Residential Schools and its on-going impact.

It was a beautiful and difficult day. Beautiful to be on grounds of the former residential school with United Church people humbly listening to the stories of the past and the hope for the future of Long Plain First Nation and survivors from other communities. Difficult in that many of the stories we heard were stories of soul-wrenching pain. I have read stories of Residential Schools and heard survivors speak in other contexts but it touched me deeply to hear of things that happened right here in our town to children just like the ones who sit up front in our own church on Sunday mornings. Beautiful in the courage and hope and forgiveness shown by the speakers. Difficult in the courage and hope and repentance that such stories demand of us, the spiritual descendants of those who ran the schools.

Trinity's relationship with the Portage Indian Residential School that dates back more than a century. In 1886, a group of 10 women from Knox

Presbyterian (now Trinity United) Church started a day school which became a Residential School in 1888. The school became a residence only in 1961 before closing in 1975. Ownership of the school and grounds were transferred to Long Plain First Nation in 1980 as part of a Treaty Land Entitlement claim. A brief history of the school is available at <http://thechildrenremembered.ca/school-locations/portage-la-prairie/>. (If you do not have internet access, but are interested in this history, please contact the church office).

In the living memory of many who still worship with us today, Residential School students attended Sunday services at Trinity. Many remember fondly connecting with students at the school and later at the residence through CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training), junior choir and other activities.

As a congregation, we are challenged by this history to expand our ability to live with complexity and to hold in dynamic tension very differing experiences of reality. We know that many of the people involved with the Residential School had good intentions and tried to do their best for the students under their care. In some cases, those people are beloved members of our own families and valued members of this church, past and present. We also know that the entire system was based on the desire of the government, supported by churches, to eliminate First Nations culture and language and make them more like us. We also know that the way that system was lived out was brutal to small children wrenched from their families, forced to have their hair cut short (which violates cultural traditions for many First

Nations) and forbidden to speak the only language they knew. It is hard to imagine our own six year olds being taken from us to a place where they can only speak Cree or Anishinabek and must adapt to an entirely different way of living without any adults from their own culture to help. It is also hard to imagine what it would be like to live in a community with no children between the ages of 6 and 16 because they were all away at Residential School for 10 months a year. We also know that some students were subject to physical and sexual abuse and that they were helpless to do anything about that in a system where even their letters home were opened before they were sent and runaways were punished.

We cannot change history but we can live into a different future if we have the courage to face our history. For us at Trinity that means we need to do some painful listening. We need to hear stories of things we wish had never happened. We need to hear how the legacy of these destructive systems continues to live on in families and communities since those who spent their childhood cut off from their families and communities in Residential Schools had a hard time learning how to parent themselves. We need to examine how racist assumptions continue to infiltrate our own thinking. We also need to hear how survivors and their families are healing. We need to listen as First Nations dream of a different future for their communities and this country. We need to imagine what forgiveness and reconciliation look like for us. We need to understand that this will require us to do some things differently. We will be changed by the listening.

How much do I give to my church?

This is a question that many people ask themselves, but this question is not discussed in public. We discuss **how**



much to tip or how much to give at a wedding. So why don't we discuss how much to give to my church?

Firstly, we need to assign a value to what we are doing with our tip or our gift. For example, a tip is a monetary reward for good service, that is, being attentive to our needs or wants, and an expectation that future service and attentiveness will be rewarded. Although we don't discuss how much we give as a particular tip, we do discuss what the range is.

When giving a wedding gift, we assign a value to determine what we give. That value is based upon factors that include the estimated cost of our meal, and a monetary amount we want to give the couple based upon how close of a friend or family member they are to us. Once again, although we usually don't discuss how much we give to a specific couple, we do discuss the factors we use to come to our decision.

I propose that it is time we start to discuss how much we give to our church. I am not saying that we need to tell each other what we give as individuals, but rather, what we use as a measure to determine how much we give. Our church relies upon our donations to meet its financial obligations.

Firstly, I suggest we need to determine the value of our church community in our lives, in our local community and our global community. How important is it to have Trinity Church as a well-maintained, historic building which provides a home for church functions, the Portage Ukrainian Nursery School, Big Brothers

and Big Sisters of Portage la Prairie, Portage Girl Guides and many others? What value does the caring community have which comes together to celebrate baptisms, weddings, funerals and all the ups and downs of life in between? In what ways do our worship and education change lives and equip people to offer their gifts in service in the world? How are our children nurtured in faith and supported as they grow?

Secondly, what measure are we going to use in our lives to determine how much is an appropriate gift? There are many ways of coming up with a justification for an amount. For example, do we give an amount equal to what we spend on a night out or an amount equivalent to a restaurant meal? Do we give the change in our pocket every week, every month? Do we give an amount equal to a utility bill? Do we give a portion of our year-end bonus? Do we give a percentage of our income? Do we give a loonie or a toonie? Do we look at the church budget, and decide we are going to be responsible for a portion of it?

Once we raise the issue of how to measure how much to give, the immediate response is to pull back, because we do not want to offend anyone that has a fixed income or limited

income. I believe that in opening the discussion as to how we measure what to give, we can recognize that some people are in places in their lives they cannot give much. For example, when I was a young parent, washing cloth diapers and attending university on student loans, I did not have much to give. At the same time, I did not go out to eat or spend money on a night out.

I did not learn how much to give growing up. I started evaluating how much to give as an adult by looking at my monthly income, my monthly financial needs and my disposable income. I learned that my financial gift to the church came with a tax receipt. If I had enough income that I was paying personal income taxes, once I donated more than \$200, I received a tax credit of 46.6% for every dollar donated. Financial donations can be made annually or periodically, in person, online or by PAR.

My desire to give to my church came from how I valued my church community in my life. As I started to understand my church's need for income so that the church can carry out its role in my life, the local community and the global community, I then began to measure my giving in terms of the church's budget. The discussion as to how we measure what to give is like the discussion of how we measure how much to tip or how much to give at a wedding. This thought process can be an open discussion, however, the amount we give individually can remain private and personal. **Let's start discussing how we measure how much to give to our church.**

Respectfully submitted by Diane H. Stevenson, on behalf of the Stewardship Team

How much does your donation REALLY cost you?

Because of the tax credits for donations to a registered charity like Trinity, it may cost you less than you think to make significant contribution to the life and work of this congregation. Mark Verwey prepared the following helpful chart:

Donation analysis

Donation	\$1,000	\$750	\$500
Tax credit at 46.6%	(\$466)	(\$350)	(\$233)
Net Cost	<u>\$534</u>	<u>\$401</u>	<u>\$267</u>
Weekly commitment	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$7.5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
Number of medium Tim Horton's coffee	<u>6</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>3</u>

Under the current tax system, once you donate over \$200 in a year you receive the maximum tax credit of 46.6% as shown above.

The above calculation assumes your annual income is sufficient enough that requires you to pay personal income tax.

Trinity's Financial Update 2016

March & April

Goal - \$30,723

Given - \$26,960

**Please Help!
Thank you.**



Summer Giving Goals

May – August
\$50,951

Let's keep it up!

June:

A Month of Stories

"Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive." (Barry Lopez)

Stories are powerful.

They help us to see ourselves and the world more clearly.

The Bible is full of them. Jesus used

stories called parables to help his audience reimagine things. This June we are going to connect our bible stories with contemporary children's stories. Come and explore these great stories with us:



June 5

"Something From Nothing"
by Phoebe Gilman

June 12

"The Velveteen Rabbit"
by Margery Williams

June 19

"God is in the Between"
by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

June 26

"Roxaboxen"
by Alice McLerran

"Everything is interconnected.

Gratitude improves sleep.

Sleep reduces pain.

Reduced pain improves your mood.

Improved mood reduces anxiety, which improves focus and planning.

Focus and planning help with decision making.

Decision making further reduces anxiety and improves enjoyment.

Enjoyment gives you more to be grateful for, which keeps that loop of the upward spiral going.

Enjoyment also makes it more likely you'll exercise and be social, which, in turn, will make you happier." - Alex Korb

Hospital Visiting

Because of the Personal Health Information Act, it is so important to have someone contact the church office (204-857-4471) and request a hospital visit. Your ministers will not know that you are in hospital unless you find ways to tell us.



Summer Worship



Once again we will be joining together with First Presbyterian and McKenzie United Churches for our worship services in July and August. This summer, each preacher has chosen some of his or her favourite bible stories to explore. Come and discover some well known old favourites and some stories you might never have heard before. Our schedule is as follows:

Services at First Presbyterian (17 Royal Road South)

July 3

“In the beginning”

The Story of Creation

Worship Leader: Beth Kerr

July 10

“Who is my neighbour?”

The Good Samaritan

Worship Leader: Julie Baker

July 17

“Strange encounters
on the road”

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Worship Leader: Marg Scott

Services at McKenzie (85 - 11th Street NW)

July 24

“Swallowed by a whale”

Jonah

Worship Leader: Marg Scott

July 31

“Don’t be afraid. You won’t die”

Gideon

Worship Leader: Marg Scott

August 7

“Can your God light a fire?”

Elijah on Mount Carmel

Worship Leader: John Zondag

Services at Trinity (15 Tupper Street South)

August 14

“Sinking in the mud”

Jeremiah in the Cistern

Worship Leader: John Zondag

August 21

“Standing up straight”

Jesus heals the bent-over
(kyphotic) woman

Worship Leader: John Zondag

August 28

“Help me, I’m drowning”

Peter walks on water

Worship Leader: Beth Kerr

Your Guide to Weird Church Jargon

The church has all sorts of words and abbreviations that must sound strange to the rest of the world. What is a UCW, for instance? At Trinity, the United Church Women’s group meets on the third Wednesday of the month as “Unit C” at 9:30 a.m. for learning, conversation, a little bit of business and snacks. The UCW also coordinates 3 catering groups that provide food to church functions, including funerals. If you are interested in UCW, please let us know!

A “remit” is a word used when the United Church of Canada needs to have a decision from all parts of the church. Right now, the United Church of Canada is looking at large structural changes to deal with a changing financial reality. These decisions will not likely affect local congregational life too much, although it may well change for those who are involved in the parts of the wider church called “presbytery” and “conference”. Over the next few months the Leadership



Team will be looking at some “remits” and participating on our church’s behalf in this decision making process. If you have an interest in the remits, please speak to any member of the Leadership Team.

The “narthex” is an architectural word for an entry way. Our church narthex is that area where hosts greet you on Sunday mornings, just inside the big black doors. And if you ever hear anyone talking about the “sacristy”, that’s the large cupboard half way up the north stairs to the sanctuary (you know, the ones at the front of the church leading to the choir loft that go down to the bathrooms and the auditorium?). The sacristy holds things like candles and communion supplies.

There are likely lots more words we use that could use explanation. Let us know when you hear them!

POOL PARTY



Splash Island

Thursday, July 14

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Come and have a splashing, sliding, swimming good time! Bring your children, grandchildren and the neighbour’s children. Children - bring your adults! Snacks will be provided but feel free to bring a picnic supper for your family. More details to follow. To ensure we have enough guards on duty, please reserve a spot for your family by calling or emailing the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471) by July 8.

Paying Attention

By Steve Goodier
www.LifeSupportSystem.com

A funny story circulated recently about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of the fictional detective Sherlock



Holmes. Doyle evidently told of a time when he hailed a taxi in Paris. Before he could utter a word, the driver turned to him and asked, "Where can I take you, Mr. Doyle?"

Doyle was flabbergasted. He asked the driver if he had ever seen him before.

"No, sir," the driver responded, "I have never seen you before." Then he explained: "This morning's paper had a story about you being on vacation in Marseilles. This is the taxi stand where people who return from Marseilles always arrive. Your skin color tells me you have been on vacation. The ink spot on your right index finger suggests to me that you are a writer. Your clothing is very English, and not French. Adding up all those pieces of information, I deduced that you are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

"This is truly amazing!" the writer exclaimed. "You are a real-life counterpart to my fictional creation, Sherlock Holmes!"

"There is one other thing," the driver said.

"What is that?"

"Your name is on the front of your suitcase."

Perhaps the driver was no real detective, but he was observant. He paid attention,

and paying attention is an important part of living fully -- if we pay attention to the right things.

Speaker Alan Loy McGinnis tells of a New York City sculptor named Louise. She lived in one of the most dilapidated neighborhoods

of the city. But, by paying attention to her surroundings, she found endless beauty and inspiration. She marveled at the elegance in the varying patterns of the sun and the moon reflected on tenement windows. In an object as ordinary as a chair she could see something extraordinary. "The chair isn't so hot," she once pointed out, "but look at its shadow." By paying attention, she was able to see what others might miss.

Paying attention to the moments and to ordinary things of life, as much as possible, is a way to happiness. Like Brené Brown says, "I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness - it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude." What do you think you might actually see and appreciate if you were to look carefully?

- I think I might see things or people in a new way. Too often I look straight through them and take them for granted.
- I think that, if I were to pay closer attention, I may better notice the abundance in my life instead of wishing for what I don't have.
- If I look carefully, I think I just might see how beautiful and exquisite my life really is instead of thinking someone else has it better.

I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness. I may only have to pay attention to the right things and happiness will find me.

It's Time for Planting!

FOCUS (Feed Other Countries, Undo Starvation) is a Canadian Foodgrains Bank Grow Project in the Portage la Prairie area. It aims to be a Christian response to hunger around the world. You can be a part of this vital work. To date they have 243 acres of crop land arranged for the upcoming growing season. Your donation will help plant the crops on that land. In 2015, FOCUS raised \$124,500 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. After the matching contribution from the Government of Canada the total grew to \$622,500 to help feed the hungry. Donation cheques should be made payable to FOCUS and sent to Tony Peters, R.R. #2, Box 37, Portage la Prairie MB R1N 3A2. Donations of \$20 or more will receive an income tax receipt early in 2017 for the 2016



income tax year. For more information call Dave Falk at 204-856-6626

Are you receiving TriniTidings?

If you know of someone who would like to receive TriniTidings, please have them call the office and we will add their name to our list. You may also contact us by e-mail - trinityu@mts.net



Help Keep the Soup On!

The Portage la Prairie Soup Kitchen plays an important



role in our community providing a hot meal on weekdays to those who are hungry. Last year 10,462 meals were served. This February, 785 meals were served; 171 more meals than in February of 2015. The Soup Kitchen relies on donations of food and money as well as community volunteers to make this happen.

More help is urgently needed. In March they had to close for a day because they did not have enough volunteers.

Can you help? Volunteers are needed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each weekday to prepare

sandwiches, make up plates of food, serve the food, load and unload the dishwasher and clean-up. You can volunteer one or more times a month or even on an occasional basis if that is what fits your schedule best. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471.

40th Wedding Anniversary
for Lynn & Terry Thompson
Saturday, August 6
Dance starting at 9 p.m.
Meyer's Norris Penny
Tickets available from
Terry Thompson for \$10
(All proceeds to United Way)

Games Night in the Park!



Monday, June 20
at 6:00 p.m.
(meet at the park)

\$2/person and includes a picnic supper. Make sure you bring your ball glove and mosquito repellent.

Angela Roulette, a woman of the Anishinaabe tradition, who lives in Portage la Prairie, is interested in reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people. You may know her from the Women of Mother Earth Network, and their annual Christmas Day Dinner, held last year at First



Presbyterian Church. On select Thursday afternoons at Trinity, Angela has been hosting sharing circles for anyone who is interested.

People from Trinity would be most welcome. If you are interested, please be in touch with the office to find the next opportunity. Please note that sweet grass is used during these sharing circles.

Keep in touch with happenings at Trinity over the summer

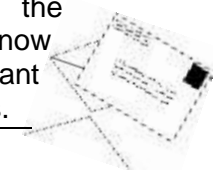


Join our Facebook Group at "Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie" and/or check out our website at

www.trinityunitedportage.ca or pop by the office for a visit (our regular office hours 9-12 and 1-4 Monday through Friday except for July 1 and August 1 continue throughout the summer).

The Refugee Coalition needs your help!

Like many other groups across the country, we are still waiting for the arrival of our families. You can help make this a government priority by writing to your Member of Parliament, the Minister of Immigration, the Cabinet Minister from Manitoba and the Prime Minister. Copies of possible letters are available at the church. If you would prefer an electronic copy that you can email or personalize and print, please email the church at trinityu@mts.net and we will happily send you one. Thank you for helping the government to know that this is important to us as Canadians.



House Group D would like to encourage everyone to help support Grandmother's Giving throughout May with their Granny Jar Campaign now underway in Portage la Prairie. Grandmothers Giving is a local community group committed to raising awareness about the plight of grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa who care for their grandchildren orphaned by HIV/AIDS. They raise funds throughout the year to help these families with ongoing financial needs for food, shelter, and schooling. They ask for your support by placing your spare change in a Granny Jar. Every "penny" does count! Yes, we still take pennies! Our Canadian dollar goes a long way in African countries when purchasing basic necessities for grandmothers and their orphaned grandchildren. Thank you for helping Grandmothers Giving help others in need.

