

Trini Tidings 2016



Advent/Christmas

Trinity United Church
Portage la Prairie, MB
Phone: 204-857-4471
Fax: 204-857-4859

e-mail: trinityu@mts.net

Website: (recently updated!!!!)

www.trinityunitedportage.ca



Group – Trinity United
Church Portage la Prairie

Trinity Mission Goal:

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

Advent Lunch



Start the Advent season with a time of food and fellowship following worship on **November 27**. House Group E invites you to enjoy a “build-your-own-sandwich” lunch, with several fillings and dessert. There will also be a couple of surprises to welcome the Advent Season. Hope to see you there.



COMING UP IN WORSHIP at TRINITY

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

November 27, 2016

Sounds of the Season:

*“It’s Beginning to Look
A Lot Like Christmas”*

Celebration of Communion
Advent Lunch follows worship

December 4, 2016

Sounds of the Season

“O Christmas Tree”

White Gifts will be collected

December 11, 2016

Sounds of the Season

“Frosty the Snowman”

December 18, 2016

Sounds of the Season

“I’ll be Home for Christmas”

December 21, 2016

Service of

Remembrance & Hope

7:30 p.m. at Trinity

December 24, 2016

Christmas Eve Services

7:00 p.m.

Sounds of the Season

*“Rudolph,
the Red Nosed Reindeer”*

10:00 p.m.

Sounds of the Season

“We Need a Little Christmas”

No Worship Service on

December 25

January 1, 2017

Sounds of the Season

*“The Twelve Days of
Christmas”*

*Come and do your
Christmas baking the
easy way! The Unit C -
U.C.W. Dainties Sale will
be held **December 11**
following the morning
service.*



*Did you know? “Jingle
Bells” was the first song
performed in space.*

CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

**Saturday, December 24
7:00 p.m.**

Shepherds meet Rudolph –
Rudolph meet the Shepherds –
It’s a Christmas eve mash up of
extraordinary stories! Join us
for a lively festive celebration!



This service will invite
lots of participation –
for adults and
children. If you would
like to have a part,
please be in touch
with Julie at the
church.



**Saturday, December 24
10:00 p.m.**

We need a little
Christmas.... What do
we need right this
very minute?
Join us for quiet
candlelight and
communion



For the last 8 years, Portage la
Prairie's Women of Mother
Earth Network, led by Angela
Roulette, has offered a free
Christmas Day dinner. It has
been held at various churches,
and this year it's coming to
Trinity. It takes place
December 25 from 1-4 pm and
everyone is invited. Volunteers
cook, serve and visit, and even
provide musical entertainment
for those who come. If you
would like to help, you can be in
touch with the
Trinity office, or
contact Angela
directly at 204-
240-6259.



Christmas Music Brings Memories

How many of your favourite memories have a soundtrack attached to them? Do particular songs take you right back to a particular place and time or remind you of a particular person? Do songs sometimes make you cry because they remind you of someone you miss?



Christmas music can be like that. It can remind us of our grandmother playing the piano or of children dressed up in bathrobes parading to the front of the church as shepherds or of the peacefulness of candle-light or the fun of a sleigh ride or of carollers coming to the door. Music can remind us of the moments and people we cherish.

Sometimes we are looking for a way to celebrate our memories of loved ones whose presence we miss in this festive season and throughout the year. At Trinity, one of the ways you can honour a loved one is by making a donation in their memory.

A gift to Trinity can be designated in a variety of ways: Trinity's Memorial Fund contributes to the worship and Christian education life of the church in memory of the one who is honoured. Memorial gifts are also gladly received to any other ministry of the church, designated, or undesignated.

Thinking about our memories and those we love can also invite ourselves to ask the question "how do I hope to be remembered?" You can often make a sizable financial contribution to an organization whose work you believe in by placing an invitation in your funeral plans

to make donations to that organization. Tell your family, discuss with your preferred funeral home, or make a note with your important papers that "memorial donations can be made to...." Then put the paper away, and make more music and memories with those you love.

Trinity's Memorial Fund

The Trinity Memorial Fund seeks to honour the life and faith of loved ones in ways that keep faith alive. We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose memory we have received donations since September 2016.

- Eileen Greenslade*
- Bunny Muhly*
- Doug Barber*
- Aileen Young*
- Joan Brown*
- Lynne McKibbin*
- Roy Tibbett*
- Ken Yuill*
- Glenn Arnott*
- Rose Metcalf*
- Norman Quigley*
- Chad Miller*
- Muriel Lyons (Building Fund)*

Did you know? Mel Tormé's "The Christmas Song" (more commonly known as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire") was written during a summer heatwave in 1944.



UPDATE 2016

Trinity Funerals & Baptisms since the September 2016 TriniTidings

Funerals

Heather (Lynne) McKibbin
October 8, 2016

John Taylor
October 19, 2016

Paul Franklin Verwey
November 17, 2016

Baptism

Abby MaKenna Reykdal
Daughter of

Chris & Kayla Reykdal
October 30, 2016

Braden Benjamin Wallace
Son of

Ben & Vanessa Wallace
October 30, 2016

Levi Weston Hay
Son of

Skylar Hay & Adrianna Boychuk
October 30, 2016

Tye Andrew Brugger
Son of

Dean & Tara Brugger
October 30, 2016

Breakfast at Trinity



We have enjoyed some tasty Saturday morning breakfasts this fall

with lots of opportunity for visiting - thank you to everyone who has participated in these community building gatherings! We're going to do one more - so, please join us on **Saturday, December 10** for a festive homemade quiche breakfast with lots of holiday spirit before you head into the rest of your day. Breakfast will be served 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Please contact Jennifer Baker at 204-239-1989 if you're interested in helping.

Trinity to host Hot Blizzard Folk Fest Fundraiser



This February, "Melt the Winter Blues" at Manitoba's winter folk festival! Mark your calendars for SATURDAY (not Sunday), February 4, as Hot Blizzard Folk Fest celebrates its 5th anniversary. The action happens at our very own Trinity United Church, with all net proceeds being donated back to the church - you definitely won't want to miss this great event!

There's musical fun for everyone, to warm the body, mind, and spirit on a mid-winter's day. Dance, sing, listen, or relax to the music; and most importantly, be yourself! Experience the stellar acoustics of our historic church, and live in the moment amid the inviting ambience of this truly unique festival. You can bring along your friends and family, or simply come as you are.

This year's lineup will be the biggest and most diverse lineup to date, featuring six hours of live music, including the signature musician workshop "High Gravity Stew Brew!" You are free to come and go from the event as you please. Don't forget to bring an instrument for the public jam session,

following the main festival program.

The 2017 performer lineup will be unveiled on December 1st, the same day advance tickets go on sale at the church and online. Tickets will be FREE for children 12 and under, \$15/student (\$20 at the door), and \$20/adult (\$25 at the door). The music begins at 1:00 p.m., continuing until 7:00 pm. Doors open at 12:30 pm.

If you'd like to volunteer at this year's festival or would like to know more about Hot Blizzard 2017, please contact Josh Wright or visit www.portagefolk.com for details. Any inquires can be directed to info@portagefolk.com.

Games Night

We held a Halloween themed party in October with costumes, games, prizes & treats. We are pleased that Evelyn, Amy, Max & Gaby have volunteered to help us.



Our next Games Night is November 28, and our Christmas Lights tour and pizza party is

set for December 19. Then we will continue with the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. for our games evenings until May 29, and probably June 19.

Portage la Prairie officially has a new youth city councillor. Congratulations to Lasha Mackedenski who was sworn into the role November 14.



Christmas is a time for Giving White Gift Sunday



This year at Trinity, we will celebrate White Gift on **December 4**. All donations of toys, winter wear, gifts, non-perishable food and gift cards that you bring will be shared with the Salvation Army for Christmas hampers (or to the Portage Family Abuse Prevention Center or the Canadian Mental Health Association, as appropriate). Please do not wrap your gifts. There will be a box in which to deposit any gift cards.

If you are unable to attend worship on the 4th, you can make a donation to the office any time before December 5.

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.



Did you know? Thurl Ravenscroft, the singer responsible for How the Grinch Stole Christmas' classic song "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," also



famously voiced Tony the Tiger, the mascot for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes.

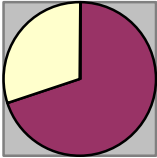
Stewardship 2016 – Let's Talk Money!

The stewardship team would like to thank those who brought our theme to life as we explored money matters. Thanks to those people who were willing to publicly share their personal experiences. And special thanks to all Trinity members, friends and supporters, without whom our ministry together would not be possible.

Thank you for all you give!

Trinity's Financial Update

**Projected Expenses for
January-December 2016
\$266,033**



Income Received to Date

**January – November 18
\$189,435**

With 6 weeks remaining in the year, we have reached 71% of our goal. Please help! We need your donations to reach our goal and continue the ministry we offer together.

Deadline for 2016 Contributions!

If you wish to top up your 2016 donations, they must be received in the office no later than **noon, December 30**, to be eligible for the taxation year 2016. Charitable donations in Manitoba (after the first \$200) receive a 46% tax credit. This means that if you pay income tax, your donation costs you roughly half of what you give.



What's that they say about things that are for certain?

Death and Taxes

When you die, there is a deemed disposition of all your assets at their fair market value. The one big exception is that, generally, most assets can be passed tax free to a spouse. However, once the surviving spouse passes there is no further way to defer the tax.

RRSPs and RRIFs present the biggest tax liability because all of these assets are considered fully taxable upon death. If you have a sizeable estate the tax on these assets could be as high as 50%. That is a significant portion of your estate going to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Charitable donations are an effective way for people to reduce their tax bill while alive and at death. By including a charitable donation in your will you can create a legacy and significantly reduce the amount of taxes going to the government. For example, once you exceed \$200 in donations every additional dollar donated generates a tax savings at the highest tax bracket which is approximately 50% of the amount donated.

For more information, please speak to your financial advisor, as every situation is different.

Did you know? Jay Livingston and Ray Evans' holiday classic "Silver Bells" was originally titled "Tinkle Bells." They changed it when Livingston's spouse explained that "tinkle" was often a synonym for urination.



**Are you on
P.A.R.?**

Have you thought about making your church donation by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)? Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account. PAR is easy to set up, simply email or call Jacquie at the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471) or come in some day during office hours (9-12 or 1-4), and she will walk you through the process. If you are already on PAR, don't forget that you can increase or decrease your PAR donation by calling the office any time.



Do you want a way to make Christmas less about "the stuff"? Are you looking for gift ideas that can make the world a better place? The United Church of Canada is pleased to offer you Gifts with Vision. You can build a well, or aid displaced persons. You can give hot meals to a hungry person, or empower indigenous youth. You can send a child to camp or to school. With Gifts with Vision, you give a gift to friends or family to support the good work of your choice. Catalogues are available at the church, or go online to <https://www.giftswithvision.ca/>




As you receive your Christmas

cards and letters this year, please take a few moments to save the stamps. The UCW saves stamps to support the leprosy fund. The value of these stamps is increased if the postal cancellation is marked over the stamp. Stamps may be left at the church office.

“Sounds of the Season”

Soon we will enter the Advent season of preparation before Christmas. In the world around us, the signs of the season are starting to appear – from decorations to lights, to festive gatherings and shopping lists. Christmas is coming. One of the prominent features of this time of year is the music. Indeed, is there any other season of the year that is so defined by its music? Whether it's the well known traditional carols, or the latest release from Brett Eldredge or Pentatonix on their 2016 holiday albums, the songs of the season enhance the experience and the meaning of this time of year.

This Advent at Trinity, we will explore how both secular and sacred Christmas music can help us notice God's presence within and among us.

We will have a daily song for reflection throughout the Advent Season. In our Trinity United Portage la Prairie Facebook  Group, you will be given a song link each day to listen to along with a question for reflection. If you want to discuss the question, you are encouraged to post your thoughts in the comments for the song link (please do not start a new thread as this will clutter up everyone's newsfeeds). If you are not on Facebook, but would still like to join us in reflecting on the song of the day, there will be a print version available for pick-up at the back of the church on blue paper starting on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27.



On Sundays, our worship will draw inspiration from popular songs:

November 27

“It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”

John the Baptist didn't know about Christmas, but he talked about paying attention to the signs of the changing seasons. As it begins to look a lot like Christmas, what does that mean for our lives?

December 4

“O Tannenbaum”
(O Christmas Tree)

Christmas trees are evergreen, reminding us of life that can withstand even the freezing snow and ice. What is “evergreen” in our Christmas? How do we ground ourselves in the hustle and bustle of this season?

December 11

“Frosty the Snowman”

Frosty is a fun, imaginative song from the land of dreams and make believe. Joseph had a dream too. It was a different kind of dream, but one that also invited him to make a choice to appreciate the joy of the moment in the midst of life that doesn't always turn out how you expect.



Did you know? In 1906, a violin solo of “O Holy Night” was the second piece of music to ever be broadcast on radio.

December 18

“I'll be Home for Christmas”

What are we hoping and planning for this season? What matters to us as we come close to Christmas eve?

December 24

The Early Service at 7 pm will be inspired by the story of “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”. Come and find out how Rudolph fits into our traditional Christmas story about Jesus' birth. You might be surprised by the connections!

The Late Service at 10 pm will draw its theme from “We Need a Little Christmas”. As we gather in the quiet of night on Christmas eve, we will consider what it is that we need “right this very minute”.

January 1

“The 12 Days of Christmas”

Will there be 8 maids a-milking? We can't promise, but in the middle of the 12 days of Christmas, we might discover why someone once thought that was a good idea. Join us to explore ancient traditions and the meaning of Christmas once the 25th has come and gone.

Happy Retirement Marg Scott

McKenzie United Church is saying goodbye to their minister at the end of December. Marg will still be living in town (we might see her worshipping at Trinity occasionally!) but she will retire at the end of 2016. You are welcome to stop by McKenzie church office on Friday, December 23 10am-2pm to wish her well. Our prayers are with Marg and McKenzie United Church as they make their next steps.

and so the adventure begins

Ch-ch-changes!

In December 2012, the congregation of Trinity United Church launched into a new way of organizing ourselves, and one of the elements of this structure is House Groups. House groups provide an opportunity to meet different people who are part of Trinity and make a contribution to the work that needs to happen here, especially for Sunday morning worship. House groups look after a variety of tasks, including hosting, ushering, making coffee, reading scripture, and operating the audio-visual equipment.

The original plan was for 10 house groups, allowing each group to have a month of service, except for the summer months of July and August when Trinity shares worship services with First Presbyterian and McKenzie United churches.

Well, things do not always go as planned, and we began with 7 house groups, instead. This was workable until the past year, when changes within groups have made it more challenging. As life circumstances have changed for house group members, so has their ability to be involved.

In September, after conversations with the house group leaders, a decision was made to amalgamate the 7 groups into 5 house groups. These 5 groups will be assigned 2 months assigned each year, sharing the work more evenly. Please see the schedule for 2017 listed below.

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It is our hope that by amalgamating the house groups, we will be able to more comfortably fulfill the various responsibilities, and that the number of Trinity people with whom you have opportunity to make connections will increase.



The revised house groups will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary in the coming

weeks, and the house group leaders will be in touch.

If you're interested in joining a house group or learning more about what that looks like, please let us know. If you're not interested in being part of a house group, but would like to help with some of the different Sunday worship tasks, please connect with Jacquie at the Trinity office, and she can ensure that your name is available, in case a house group is looking for extra assistance.

If you have any questions or are looking for more information, please contact the Trinity office or any member of the Structure Task group – Val Garlick, Auna Brown, Sue Hiltz or Iris Yuill.

Thanks for continuing to be part of this ministry – Trinity is a great place because of people like you!

Did you know? Songwriter Gloria Shayne Baker wrote "Do You Hear What I Hear?" as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.



House Group Schedule - 2017

January 2017 – Group C
February 2017 – Group A
March 2017 – Group E
April 2017 (including Easter) – Group D
May 2017 – Group B
June 2017 – Group C
September 2017 – Group D
October 2017 – Group E
November 2017 – Group B
December 2017 (including Christmas) – Group A

Extending the Hand of Friendship at Christmas



Each year at this time, Trinity makes a special effort to connect with members of our faith community who, for reasons of

health or mobility, are no longer able to attend Sunday worship. It is important to us that there are ways to still feel like part of the family, even when you can't come to the church.

Congregation members are invited to make a brief visit and deliver a small gift on behalf of all of us. This year, the gift project is being coordinated by Patti Brown and Iris Yuill. If you, or a member of your family, would like to be remembered in this way, please be in touch with the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471) so that we can make sure you are on the list. If you are willing to help deliver, please be in touch with Patti, Iris, or the church office.

Name that Christmas Carol!
From a few lyrics, can you name the song?



1. "shepherds quake at the sight":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
 - d. We Three Kings
2. "And Heaven and nature sing":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. While Shepherds Watched
 - d. White Christmas
3. "field and fountain, moor and mountain":
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. Good King Wenceslas
 - d. We Three Kings
4. "Tis the season to be jolly":
 - a. Deck the Halls
 - b. While Shepherds Watched
 - c. Jingle Bells
 - d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
5. "God and sinners reconciled":
 - a. Come O Come Emmanuel
 - b. Come All Ye Faithful
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel

6. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night":
 - a. Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. Come O Come Emmanuel
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
 7. "Joyful and triumphant":
 - a. Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. Ave Maria
 8. "Looked down where he lay":
 - a. The First Noel
 - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
 - c. Angels from the Realms of Glory
 - d. Away in a Manger
 9. "Christ is born in Bethlehem":
 - a. See Amid the Winter's Snow
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
 - d. Away in a Manger
 10. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ave Maria
 - d. Deck the Halls
- (Answers are on last page)*

Refugees Update

As many of you will now be aware, Portage is the new home to a Syrian family, who have moved to Canada by way of Turkey. They arrived November 2 and have been settling into their new life here. Sometime before Christmas, the Refugee Coalition is looking forward to hosting a welcome party for them. Stay tuned for more information!



Congratulations to Tom Jones, awarded **Heroes of Mental Health** "Inspiring Individual" Award and George and Maureen Greenlay "Friend or Family" Award in October!

Service of Remembrance and Hope

Are you feeling sad this Christmas? Do you sometimes feel out of sync with the world around you? Are you missing loved ones who have died? If you are experiencing grief either through the loss of a loved one or for any other reason, please consider joining us for our annual Service of Remembrance and Hope. This gentle, reflective service provides an opportunity to gather and remember that the message of Christmas is not just for the joyful. It is indeed good news for the poor, the lonely, the afraid and the tired. Once again, we are cooperating with McKenzie United, First Presbyterian, St. Mary's Anglican and Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Churches to offer a shared service on **Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. here at Trinity.** Refreshments will follow the service.



"Light Up The Lights" for M&S

Starting November 27, we will be raising funds for the Mission and Service Fund. With each donation made to M&S before



Christmas, a light will be lit on the Trinity Christmas Tree. Your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund bring light, love, comfort and joy to ministries across Canada and around the world. For details about the M&S fund, www.united-church.ca/funding/msfund/about

Confirmation Classes start in January!



Are you in Grade 8 or up? Would you like to explore some challenging faith questions in a fun atmosphere? If so then you are welcome to join us for Confirmation this winter. Classes are on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. in the parlour, every second Sunday starting January 8. For those who wish to be confirmed, that opportunity will be provided on Easter Sunday, April 16. You do not have to choose to be confirmed to participate in the confirmation classes. Each young person participating in confirmation classes will be looking for an adult mentor from the congregation to join them

on this journey. It is great honour to be asked to be a Confirmation mentor. If one of our youth approaches you, we hope you will prayerfully consider if you can be involved. Confirmation mentors come to confirmation classes with the youth and participate in the laying on of hands at the Confirmation service. For any youth who are interested or those who are approached to be mentors who may have questions, please speak to Beth or Julie. For those who are not able to be directly involved but are interested in supporting this project, look for the snack sign-up sheet early in January.

Aren't we already an affirming ministry?

When we began exploring the process of becoming an affirming ministry many people



commented that they thought we already were an affirming ministry. Our mission goal, "open our hearts and minds to welcome each person as a child of God", would suggest we welcome people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. We have a policy supporting same sex marriage. So, what else is there? Being an affirming ministry isn't something that is done or finished. As individuals and as a congregation we continually evolve and grow in our understanding and actions as it relates to inclusivity. As part of this journey over the past 18 months an affirming

interest group was formed at Trinity. We hosted the production of 'Listening for Grace', a play about fathers and sons; about faith; about the church; about sexuality; and about finding commonality and listening to the stories of others. We put an article in Trini Tidings about the process of becoming an affirming ministry through Affirm United. Trinity members participated in the first Portage la Prairie Pride parade. Most recently Julie Baker facilitated a group discussion after church about questions you feel silly asking; questions you don't know how to answer and being in a respectful dialogue. These

activities have contributed to our growth journey and have provided an opportunity to reach out to the community as we live out our mission.

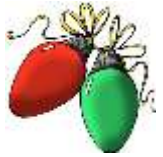
We still have a decision to make as to whether we go through all the required steps to become a designated affirming ministry with

Affirm United. If we chose that path Trinity would pay a modest fee, have an annual action plan, and be listed on the Affirm United website. Whether we take this formal step or not, Trinity is committed to continue growing as an inclusive ministry and one that supports social justice.

Debbie Nelson on behalf of the Affirming Interest Group

Christmas Office Hours

- The office will have regular hours, Friday, December 23, and like other Saturdays, will not be open on Christmas Eve.
- The office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27
- The office will also be closed on Monday, January 2.



For 2016 tax receipts, donations must be received by noon on Friday, December 30.

Name that Christmas Carol! (Answers)

1. b. Silent Night
2. b. Joy to the World
3. d. We Three Kings
4. a. Deck the Halls
5. c. Hark the Herald Angels
6. b. Come O Come Emmanuel
7. a. Come All Ye Faithful
8. d. Away in a Manger
9. a. See Amid the Winter's Snow
10. b. The First Noel

