

TRINITY TIMES

March 2020

Volume 3 Issue 1

Editors: Pat Bradley and Jo-Ann Dahms



From the Minister's Study

Dearly Beloved,

Once again we find ourselves in a time of change that threatens to overwhelm us. That just seems to be the way it is these days. And we are called to rise up from self-centeredness, to turn away from despair, to reject ambivalence and apathy, and to meet a new challenge, trusting that God is with us on the way.

We are not alone.

I believe that this generation has become complacent in many ways, but our assumption of physical presence as a necessity for close relationship is quite ridiculous. We assume rapid travel from one part of the world to another so that we can all but instantly visit with friends and family all over the planet. It hasn't always been so. Most of your parents lived in a different world. Some of you remember a different world. A world in which it took days, weeks, months and even years for letters to travers continents and oceans to connect two separated hearts.

Physical presence is a joy and a gift, but *it is not necessary for us to be physically present to one another in order to be emotionally and spiritually present to one another*. Paul demonstrates this again and again in his epistles as he wrote to those whom he loved. He expresses again and again his preference to meet face to face, but distance made this impossible. So he wrote letters to small groups of people and those small groups of people shared those letters with their friends, family, and neighbours (often only one or two

(Continued on page 2)

CHANGES....



Trinity and Covid-19

These are different times and we are all going to find it difficult to adjust to all the changes. The decisions that have been made here at Trinity are made following the recommendations of Government Health Officials and Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada and The National United Church.

In-person Sunday services will be put "on hold" starting March 22nd, and will be re-assessed on an ongoing basis. This followed the advice that groups of 50, with a large number of seniors and vulnerable, should not meet. This is us. As far as the church groups that meet during the week, please follow the web site or contact the leader of that group.

Rev. David is publishing a meaningful (but brief) worship service every Sunday morning on his blog .

Even though the office is closed, the work of our office administrator continues as Zoe is working remotely from home. Messages can be left on the church phone and emails are accessed. Your Governance initiated a "Phone Tree" so we can keep those who do not have internet connections up to date.

So, the work of the church will continue, albeit in a different manner. Please go to our website to keep up to date, Rev. David will be posting on his blog daily and can still be reached by calling the office and leaving a message.

Please keep in contact with friends and family and provide support to those most vulnerable. Any questions please contact any of the Governance Team and we will do our best to answer them. Take care, keep well and "wash your hands".

Judi Carroll and Syd Sawyer

A huge thank you to Zoë for creating an **absolutely excellent** Trinity website . It is easy to use, fun to navigate, the link are clear, and it presents Trinity very well to the public.

Thank you, Zoë! Well done!



Check it out for yourself : www.ucpoco.ca

(Continued from page 1)

in each community would have been *able* to read the letters).

At this time we are called to be emotionally and spiritual present to one another.

- Make a phone call.
- Write a note.
- Send a postcard, a letter, a greeting, to those you love.
- Tell your loved ones you love them.
- Stop waiting for the phone to ring and reach out.

What if we spend the next several weeks of social distancing writing love letters to each other?

Each day I will post on my blog. We will share announcements. We will share people for whom to pray. You don't need to know someone to think about them, to pray for them and to send them loving thoughts.

I believe that if we take this time of social-distancing to be present to one another emotionally and spiritually, we will return much stronger for our time apart. Distance really can make the heart grow fonder, if we are intentional about continuing to show our love and affection for one another.

Please check the post often and communicate it with others. Please contact the office if you need a current congregational directory and we will send you one as soon as we are able. In time, we hope to also be able to post video. We will be working on fresh communications regularly.

Love in Christ,
Rev David.

If you haven't already visited Trinity's new website, this is the perfect time to do so. One of the new features is the "GIVE" button. It's very easy to do, and given our current Covid-19 circumstances, this is the time!

[Donate Now](#)

Check it out for yourself: www.ucpoco.ca

A Strategic Planning Update....March 2020

The Strategic Planning Team would like to thank those who attended the Trinity Town Hall Meeting on Mar 8 for lunch and a presentation by Terry Harrison of Three Point Housing Society. Terry has offered us a digital copy of her presentation of which we are welcome to make copies. Please let us know if you would like one.

The Strategic Planning team continues to meet with the purpose of maintaining a Trinity United church congregation and explore the possibilities of redevelopment.

We have gone through a process that has determined:

- We do not have the expertise nor the desire to undertake development on our own.
- Finding developers can be a risky business.
- We have had discussion with two developers recommended to us and who specialize in not-for-profit housing: Catalyst and Three-Point Society.
- The proposals from Catalyst and Three Point Housing were very similar with two important differences: a) Three Point Housing Society is under the wing of Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada, and b) Three Point Housing requires no money up front.

We are recommending that we contract with Three-Point Housing Society to do a feasibility study.

To go to a feasibility study, our congregation is required to vote on a motion in answer to our recommendation. The current pandemic has created uncertainty as to when that will be possible. We will keep you posted.

And many thanks to those who cleaned up the dishes from our lunch.

From the Strategic Planning Team: Syd Sawyer, Bryan Furman, Robert Nicolson and Rev. Cathcart

Moving On....

We have seen many changes to our congregation since the December 2019 issue of Trinity Times....Temporary



Move: Irene McKinney has temporarily returned to the UK.... Upcoming move in April by Kim Longmuir and George Murdoch to resettle in Nova Scotia... Resting in peace are the following members of our congregation....Maida Smyth (January), Helena Ketchen and Phyllis McKay (February).

a little bit about..... **The Longmuir/Murdoch Family**

Early Days

Both Kim and George were born & raised in Vancouver – Kim in Renfrew Heights, East Vancouver, with three siblings; George on the west side with four siblings.

Kim Longmuir

Apparently the East side is famous for raising pro football players: in High School, Kim's locker mate was Lui Passaglia. At the same time, she also rubbed shoulders with Glen Jackson and Al Busch at school. While we are name dropping...she baby sat for Glen Clark. Kim graduated high school at age 15 (yes, not a typo), despite a terrible car incident in Grade 10. She was hit by a drunk driver and spent nine months in hospital with severe head injuries, three months of which she was in a coma. Eventually her grateful parents realized she was going to pull through...followed by a long period of rehabilitation in which Kim had to re-learn how to walk and write etc.. Her Dad passed away when she was in Grade 12...on her birthday. Kim immediately had to find a job to support the family, while her Mom stayed home to raise the other children. A tough (but remarkable) few years but she made it! Over the next couple of decades, Kim set out to work as many jobs as she could, AND to collect as many education degrees as possible: Hospitality & Tourism, Business Management, Geomorphology, Psychology.. to name a few.

George Murdoch

George was born in Vancouver, and grew up with four siblings. He attended Chown Memorial United Church and was active in Scouting. He was guitarist in a rock band in the teen years. After graduating from Eric Hamber High School, he attended Langara College focusing on math and sciences. In 1980, he applied to BCIT to become a helicopter mechanic but there was a three-year wait, so he got into construction instead, specializing in cabinetry and millwork. For the next 23 years, George worked on downtown Vancouver offices. He was (and is) an avid camper..loves playing his guitar and singing around the campfire! (Trinity folks also love his singing!)

Kim and George were a part of a fairly large group of like minded campers...the minimalist kind. The first time he invited Kim to join him, he was in for a surprise. When George drove over to pick up Kim, she was out on the street waiting for him with three large (or was it 12!) totes,

a dog, a 10 x 10 tent, and a queen mattress with proper bedding! Not the minimalist type at all! "What's all this stuff?" were his first and only words during the drive out. He was truly embarrassed to show up at the camp site. Well, they survived the weekend....and the next year? Everyone in the group had upgraded to meet Kim's level of baggage and comfort!

Kim and George get married....



On August 19, 2006, Kim arrived at the Hart House in Burnaby to attend her baby nephew's christening. She was surprised to see how many of

her friends were there but many of the people had their backs turned to Kim as she entered. Suddenly George appeared and said: "Kim, it's OK, we are getting married today. There is no christening, this is our wedding". Wow! George and Kim's sister Paula, had planned the entire event months in advance, sent out secret invitations, and took care of all the many details of planning a wedding. Not surprisingly Kim was stunned: what was she to wear? Her sister had secretly purchased the perfect wedding dress & accessories for Kim, and it was waiting for her upstairs. From then on, it was a fairy tale day...Kim said it was "perfect".

Kim, George and Trinity

On April 28, Kim and George will be leaving Port Coquitlam to live in Rothesay, New Brunswick (near St. John). They have lots of dreams of what their new life will be like: running a Bed and Breakfast, George working at Kent Building Supplies, and Kim teaching.

Kim and George both say that Trinity has been a huge part of their lives – the friendships and acceptance, the inter-connecting and support. Kim feels that Trinity has provided the true essence of what spirituality means. George will be sorely missed in the choir, not only for his wonderful voice but also for his incredible sense of humour! Kim and George, Trinity will miss you! We wish you God's blessings of harmony, love, faith and happiness in your new home.

submitted by Jo-Ann Dahms

Trinity's Extreme Weather Shelter

2019-20

Trinity United Church operated the Tri-Cities Extreme Weather Shelter (EWS) this winter, with volunteers Judy Johnson and Syd Sawyer coordinating day-to-day operations. EWS opened 10 p.m.- 7a.m., during miserable weather, November 1 to March 31. It was a warm, dry place, with simple meals for up to 20 people. Guests were given a mat and blanket for the night. They received a bowl of hot soup; a simple breakfast; and a bag lunch on departure.

Extreme Weather Shelter – By The Numbers:

- 12 separate activations this season. This means the shelter was declared open for at least one day.
- 62 nights open.
- 375 overnight visits.
- 65 individuals using the shelter, 28% of whom were female.
- 30% occupancy rate.
- 2 offsite locations were used. Eagle Ridge United in Coquitlam and Leigh Square Port Coquitlam.
- 49 loads of laundry.
- 1125 meals prepared.
- 5 paid staff.
- 42 volunteers.
- 996 volunteer hours.

Operating costs (~\$40K) are paid by BC Housing. Trinity receives a nominal amount to cover utilities each night Shelter opens.

Guidance for the Shelter is provided by the Tri-Cities Homeless and Housing Task Group. Their role is to identify, advocate for and coordinate the actions necessary to prevent and address homelessness in the Tri-Cities.

Submitted by Judy Johnson

Worship for a Dispersed Community

Last Sunday (March 22) was our first Sunday “electronic” worship service created by Robert Nicolson and Rev. David. How wonderful! With “in person” services being cancelled, and the need for physical distancing, we are so fortunate to have this capability. The worship format is brief in order to accommodate folks who will be reading the content to those who do not have internet access.

Worship & Music is encouraging everyone to keep current of all Trinity happenings by accessing Trinity’s website and Rev. David’s blog. There will be communication updates frequently on the website, so please stay in touch through Rev. David’s blog at www.ucpoco.ca.

from your Worship & Music Team

from Port Coquitlam Engineering and Public Works:

As property owners, Trinity was advised of upcoming road-work on Shaughnessy Street to take place in spring/ summer 2020. This will involve road rehabilitation from Lougheed to Centennial, replacement of storm sewers from Fraser to Salisbury, sanitary sewer from Fraser to Prairie and new watermain between Fraser and Salisbury. This City advises that traffic delays and disruptions are to be anticipated.

Coming to Trinity Saturday Oct 3, 2020 –

KAIROS Blanket Exercise

We are hosting a unique, interactive and participatory event to help us gain a better understanding of historic and contemporary relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in BC and Canada. We will cover more than 500 years in a 90-minute experiential workshop that aims to foster understanding about our shared history. Participants walk on blankets representing the land and into roles of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples – we literally ‘walk’ through pre-contact (before settlers), treaty-making, colonization and resistance situations. Trained Indigenous facilitators will guide us and we will have a chance to discuss, ask questions and process feelings and insights in sharing circles following the event. Watch for registration information in the fall, but mark your calendars now. There will also be a pot luck lunch.

Sponsored by the Tuesdays at 2211 Group

Our Friends at Minnekhada

Once again we have been the beneficiaries of the hard work of the Leadership students at Minnekhada Middle School. At the end of last term I was contacted by their teacher, informing me that they had raised \$250 by having a bake sale. They wanted to donate the money to Trinity United for our work with the homeless and vulnerable people of the community. We used some of the money to purchase emergency groceries over the Christmas period with the remainder being made available to the benevolent fund. They have decided that they wish to continue to support our work, and in February I met with them and collected several bags of winter clothing which they had collected during a Winter Clothing drive.

They are a bright and committed group who enjoy helping others. We here at Trinity are blessed to have contact with these young people and to receive the benefits of their efforts. We look forward to our future contact with them.

*submitted by
Judi Carroll and Joy Galea*

A SNAPSHOT of Trinity U.C.'s Governing Model

Since July 1, 2019, Trinity U.C. has been following a new-to-us model to govern our Community of Faith. **Coming Up at our 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting**, we will be asked to decide whether or not we want to continue with the new model.

Background – Creating a Provisional Governance:

At our June 2019 congregational meeting, we agreed to split the governance of the church into two parts – Governance and Management. Why? Because there was no qualified nominee or volunteer for chair of the Council of Elders & Coordinating Team. However, if we split the governance of the church into **two areas** of responsibility rather than just one, there were members who volunteered to participate in this new model.

The two parts were formed as follows:

(A) Governance: consists of four (4) elected positions, plus past chair and minister, for a total of six. This group became the “Governing Body” or **Governance Team** responsible for overseeing and evaluating the overall ministry of the church.

The Trustees, Ministry & Personnel and the Treasurer receive direction from and report to Governance.

These groups - Governance, Trustees, Treasurer and Ministry & Personnel - are absolutely essential in accordance with the U.C. of Canada manual.

(B) Management (“Doers”): consists of all other committees and teams (“interest groups”) in the congregation, plus former Elders & Coordinators. The Doers are responsible for the day-to-day Trinity U.C. doings in order to sustain and enhance our caring for our neighbours and each other.

The Doers are absolutely essential in order to fulfill Trinity U.C.'s mission here at 2211 Prairie in Port Coquitlam, BC.

In addition, there is the **Strategic Planning Team** who were created to facilitate the congregation's discernment of Trinity U.C.'s future.

This is a simplified version of our current governing model. For a more detailed description, please peruse Trinity U.C.'s minutes of our June 9, 2019 A.G.M. or contact Betty McLean. If you would like a copy of the June 9, 2019 minutes, please contact Zoë.

Submitted by Betty McLean

From your editors: It was certainly different creating this edition of Trinity Times. Wanting to respect the rules of social distancing, we found ourselves having to do what Syd has so frequently asked of us this past year: to think outside the box. So with a thanks to modern technology called FaceTime, we got together....but just not in the same room. We hope that your enjoyment of this edition proves that it worked quite well.

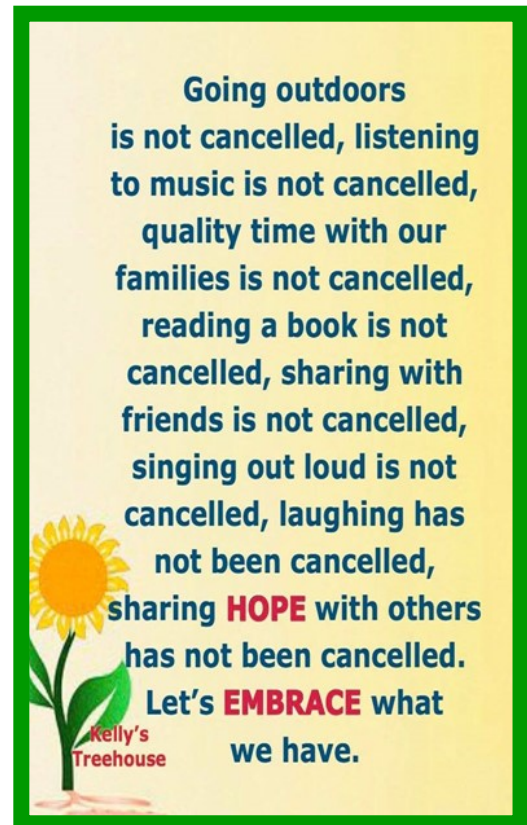
We'd like to thank Rev. David for the permission to use his artwork, his drawings are truly beautiful.

Jo-Ann and Pat

Theatre in the Country

The Outreach group continue their outings to Theatre in the Country. “The Man Who Saved Christmas”, the story about A. C. Gilbert, a successful toymaker, is requested by the government to re-tool his factory to help produce goods for the war effort, was the December outing with 24 people braving the rain to enjoy the evening. As usual the dinner before the show was very good. Our February outing was to see Agatha Christie’s “Murder on the Nile”. Again, the before production meal was excellent and the 30 people in attendance from Trinity had a friendly evening of companionship and camaraderie. Our next night out will be announced soon. Stay tuned.

submitted by Ross Dunning



*P.s. this one's not
David's* →

