@TrinityUCPG

MINISTER'S MESSAGE—REV. BOB

Daring Resurrection

This year we're looking at Good Friday and Easter as two sides to the same coin. On the one side there is the cross and its symbolism of the brokenness and pain that exists in the world. Instead of an understanding that places the cross at the centre of a redemptive narrative that required some kind of sacrifice, we're going to look at our world and lived experiences through the lens of a cross that represents the cosmic, systemic, and interpersonal ways in which people and creation are wounded and hurting. What happens when we see the cross not as a means to pay a price, but as the ultimate manifestation of what happens when we no longer seek to walk with God? What happens if we see the cross not as a tool but as a lens? How might our behaviours change if we understood that the grief and anguish of Good Friday permeats all of creation whenever we put power, authority, or greed ahead of building the kin-dom of God? Where even creation is made whole? It's a worship experience woven together with scripture, video, song, poetry, and action to ground us in that moment that almost defined Christianity and those who follow in the way of Jesus.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minister's Message continued..2
M & P Committee 4
Fellowship Team.....5
Worship Committee 6
Mission and Service Team 7
Outreach Committee 8
A.C.E.....9
Harmony House Update..... .10
Finance Committee.....11
Knox Performance Centre 12
Care of Creation.....13

Wait! Almost? Yes, because Good Friday, like death, doesn't get to have the final say. On the other side of the coin is resurrection and new life, yet you can't get there without its counter point. You can't jump from the party atmosphere of Palm Sunday and the shouts of Hosanna! Save Us! Straight to Easter Sunday and Hallelujah! You must walk the path of Good Friday, yet we always do so knowing that Easter is always possible.

What if we understood Easter as a daring event, the daring of resurrection? It is after all the defining understanding of what it means to be Christian. Resurrection is what defines us. Not Good Friday. Not brokenness, pain, doubt, or fear. Resurrection. We're an Easter people! For us the possibility of new life is always just three days away. What if we dared resurrection in our own lives? If we believed, really believed, that the ecological damage humanity is causing could be reversed. If we believed that an equitable justice system where the distinction between blue collar and white-collar crime didn't exist, where people of different nationalities, ethnicities, orientations, expressions, and identities were simply seen as fully human and to be treated as nothing less. If we believed that relationships could be restored, that fridges could be filled, that housing was available, that a living wage was mandatory, that being healthy – mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually was truly possible. What if, as we reorient ourselves towards daring resurrection, we not only believed it was possible, but we also worked to make it a reality? You see Jesus didn't just talk about resurrection, he made it happen. That's the mystery of Easter, not that it was predicted, not that it was part of some divine plan, not that it arrives at a moment when all hope is believed lost, but that the Holy One dared to make it happen in the first place and in so doing insisted that the powers of death and destruction will never have the last word.

As I look around, I see some really big challenges, one might even say Good Friday level problems. They're complex, sure, yet that's not an excuse to do nothing or accept something as inevitable. If that's who we are as followers of Jesus, then we've missed the reason the disciples run to the tomb. We've missed the power of Mary's recognition of Jesus. Were stuck arguing about the validity of Thomas' experience. We're still stuck at Good Friday. Locked in our own proverbial upper rooms where death and fear and doubt control our minds and dictate our actions. I don't believe that's who we are as TrinityUCPG. I don't believe that's who we are as The United Church of Canada. I believe we can dare resurrection. Will you join me?

Rev.Bob

1 Corinthians 15:21
"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

M & P COMMITTEE—KEITH TAITE

Easter is the time of year when we move out of winter and enjoy the new life that springs up all around us. The M&P committee would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the staff for their continued efforts in providing our ministry and to the congregation for the use of their talents in supporting our staff.

On a regular basis, the M&P committee continues to meet to review staff relationships and conditions/concerns related to working for Trinity United Prince George. Any staff or congregation members wishing to discuss conditions/concerns are open to contact any of the members of the M&P Committee to have the conditions/concerns addressed.

As always, I would also like to express my gratitude to my fellow committee members for their inputs and commitment to the team.

Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)

Marilyn Blair
Vicki Brown
Shannon Carson
Les Waldie

FELLOWSHIP TEAM—CATHIE REID

On behalf of the Fellowship Team, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

The Fellowship Team continues to be busy. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Golden Age Social on February 15th. We served coffee, tea, and baked goods to 145 seniors at the Prince George Civic Centre. The seniors enjoyed the entertainment provided by the D.P. Todd Senior Band.

We serve coffee, tea, and other refreshments after worship on Sundays. We also assist with serving refreshment after Memorial Services.

We also organize fundraisers such as the monthly muffin sales and Silent Auctions. All funds raised are used to support Trinity's various ministries in Prince George. We are very appreciative of your support of our fundraising activities.

We continue to meet at the church the first Tuesday of the month or on Zoom. New members are always welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathie Reid, Chair Fellowship Team

WORSHIP COMMITTEE—MARION BARTLETT

Happy Easter everyone. May the spirit of this Holy occasion, bring you happiness and peace.

To begin, I would like to welcome Janet Thwaites, Maria Brower and Julli-an, the newest members of the committee. I would also thank Pam Bould-ing and Sharon Vincent for continuing as members

While this is a great group, we are still looking for an additional one or two members to bring the committee to its full capacity.

We would also like to send out huge thanks to Sandra Dingwall for her years of overseeing and looking after setting up and clean up for communion and in continuing to performing that very important role.

FYI While April 2nd would normally be communion Sunday, with Easter Sunday on April 9th, rather than having back to back communions we will only conduct it on the 9th.

And a note to all on the worship assistance list. There will be a new voice at the end of the phone beginning in late April. Maria Brower has taken on the role of contacting people to fill those rules. Maria will also be contacting others to fill door greeter requirements.

And yet another " return to normal" step. We will be bringing back Wonder Hosts in a slight-ly revised set up. We may be approaching some people that we know are interested, and welcome anyone who wishes to join or would like more information to contact the office or Marion Bartlett directly at 250-613-5628. Or just tap me on the shoulder at church.

We are also reviewing ways to re-implement the passing of the collection plate during ser-vice rather than at the door. More information will be forthcoming as we work through and iron out a few minor glitches.

With Reverend Bob's ministry once a month in Terrace members of the congregation have stepped forward to fill the Worship Leader role. Hats off and thank you to each and every one of you.

As a closing note:

Good Friday service on July 7th will be at 11:00 am

Easter Sunday, April 9th service will be at 10:00 am with communion.

Blessings

MISSION AND SERVICE TEAM

As the world awakens after a long winter we celebrate the

earth that God has made.

Our theme this year, “Your Generosity Matters 2023” will centre on key areas of the incredible work that we are doing together. Areas such as supporting youth and young adults, becoming anti-racist and strengthening our faith community.

Your generosity has made such a GREAT difference in so many lives.

Through your support we were able to provide 9,996 full vaccinations for those who needed them around the world. Since the pandemic has struck, your generosity has helped raise $525,000.00 in emergency gifts to help M & S deliver personal protective equipment, install sanitation stations, distribute food and support education programs to help prevent and control the spread of disease. Your generosity has also helped to provide emergency shelter, clean water, food and medical equipment to the devastated Ukraine. These are just some of the tangible changes you have helped to make possible and behind each of them is a changed life.

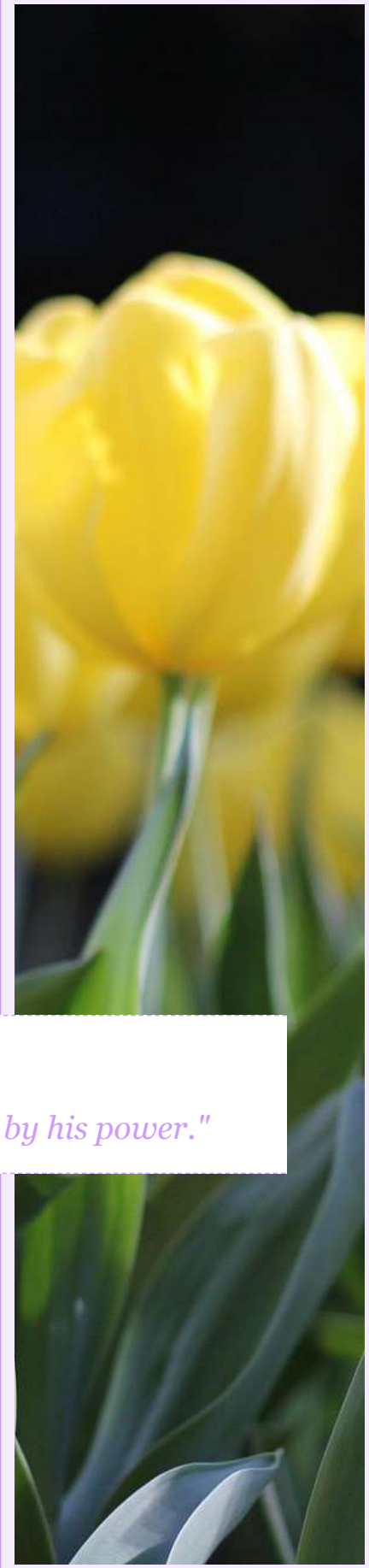
THANK YOU.

Have a blessed Easter

Your M&S team

Wendy Hudyma, Beth Quesnel, Melita Higgins,

Sharon Vincent, Pam Boulding and Betty Belado



1 Corinthians 6:14
"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES – JUDY ADDIE

Hadih:

We are sending Easter greetings from the Outreach Committee. As we look forward to spring and warmer weather, please think of our friends who access the St. Vincent de Paul Drop In Centre.

We appreciate the socks that you donated in the fall, and the shoe-box gifts that you made up in December. We are now asking for sun hats and ball caps to distribute to our guests at Soup Kitchen in May. Our goal is to have 100 hats so that everyone who attends will go away with something to keep them cool or dry in the summer months.

When you do your spring cleaning, you may find some gently used ball caps or hats in a closet. Maybe you'll pick up a cap or two, the next time you're in a dollar store. Is there someone who you'd like to give an Easter gift to, but they don't want chocolate or toiletries? Give them a note or card that says you donated hats to the guests at St. Vincent's in lieu of a gift.

Rain gear, umbrellas, ponchos, socks (new or gently used) are also needed. Blankets, back packs, and cloth grocery bags are needed throughout the year. There is a basket in the front entrance, or your donations can be dropped off in the office.

Musi,

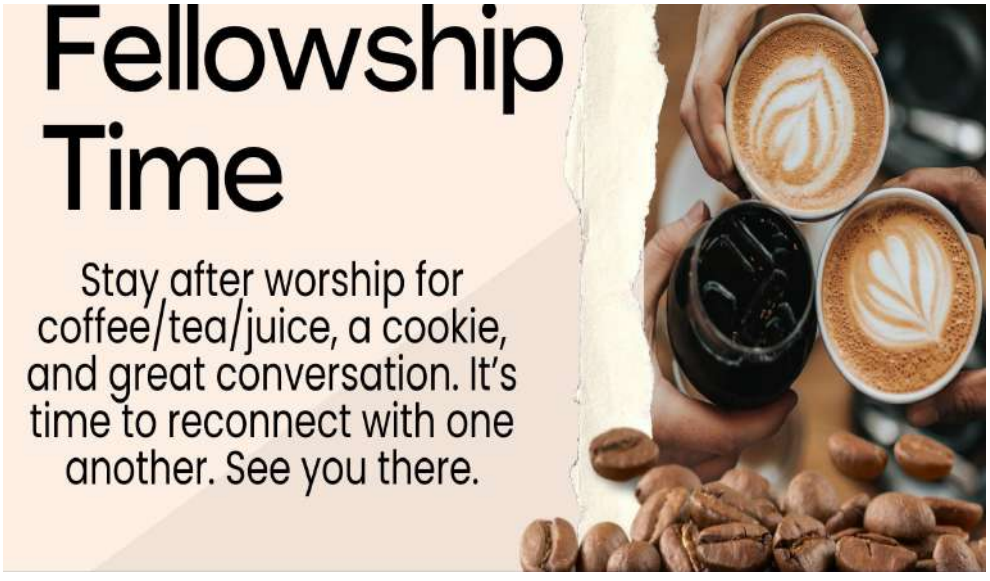
Judy & Vickie

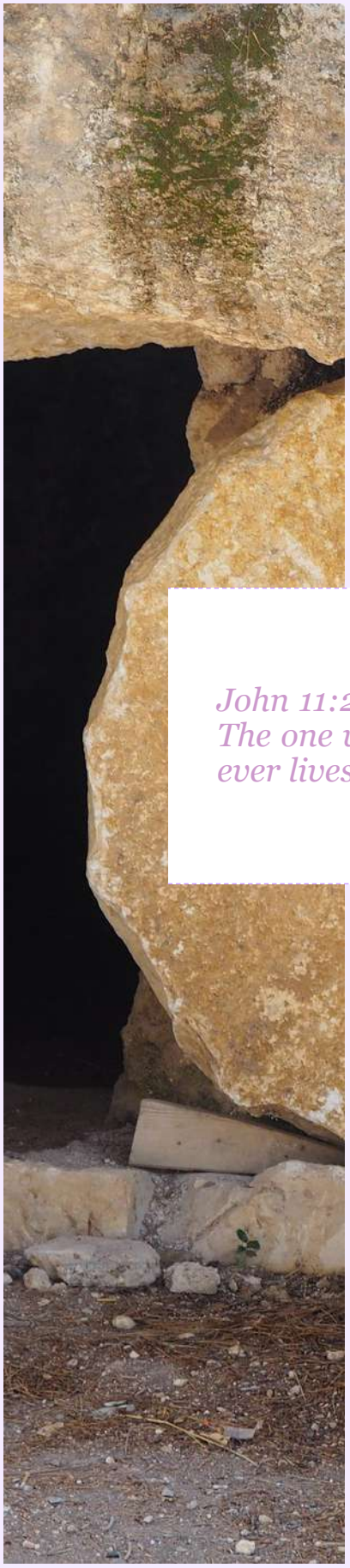
A.C.E.—EVELYN O'SULLIVAN

Thank you, on behalf of A.C.E., to all the parishioners who give so generously. A.C.E. stands for the Activity Centre of Empowerment - the Activity Centre for those with mental illness.

The first Sunday of each month, donations of non-perishable food items are dropped in the green buckets in the lobby of the church.

The food items are taken to A.C.E., located at 6th Avenue and George Street, where they are gratefully received and used in the preparation of meals in the cafeteria or put in the "pantry". From the pantry food bags are put together for clients needing supplements to eke out their food budgets. A.C.E. has over 500 members so our Outreach Project of donations of food, is much appreciated.





HARMONY HOUSE UPDATE

Have you wondered what's under the big white caterpillar shape behind the church? It's Harmony House…or it will be in about another 12 months. IDL is managing the construction and are pretty much on track for completion in the spring of 2024. They've been working all winter and have been pouring concrete on some of the coldest days we've had. To say these folks are dedicated is an understatement. What you will notice as the days get longer and warmer is even more activity, especially as the foundations and in-ground infrastructure is completed. For now, it's one concrete pour after another. Hopefully the picture helps you see the work that's been done and how things are shaping up.

John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

FINANCE COMMITTEE—DOUG HOFSTEDE

The Finance Committee would like to thank you all again, for the awesome support you give to our community of faith. At the time of writing, the March statements are hot of the press, and it is still early in the fiscal year. What we can say is that compared to 2022 the regular offerings are up slightly; M&S is well ahead of our goal; and overall revenue for the same period. That's the good news and it's important to remember that we budget on a 12-month cycle, yet some of our bills don't happen that way. One example is snow clearing. If you haven't already forgotten how often you shoveled snow in 2022/23… it was a lot, $9,350 worth to be exact. While we do anticipate the budget smoothing out as we move through the year, it does mean that at this point we have a slight deficit. This year at Annual Congregational Meeting we also approved an increase in goal for M&S $2,000 to $22,000 for 2023 and the congregation approved an additional $3500 to support a Trinity Kids staff position which Rev. Bob and M&P are in the process of filling. As you discern your level of financial support for our ministries we invite you to keep these things in mind. As we progress through the year, we will keep you up to date on our financial position.

We're also trying to make it as easy as possible to financially support our ministries at TrinityUCPG. One of the ways you can do that is through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) an easy way to support the church with an automated withdrawal on the 20th of the month from your chequing account. It's easy to set up and Erica can help you with that. Already familiar with PAR? Maybe you've set it up already? Did you know it's easy to increase your PAR amount? All you have to do is give Erica a call or send her an email and she can make it happen.

We've also been invited by The United Church of Canada Foundation to be one of a handful of test-sites across the denomination for a new partnership with a donation company called Pllenty based in Toronto. In the coming months we will be shifting from CanadaHelps to the Pllenty platform. Why? A significant reduction in user fees, yet also QR Codes and Smart Tags for your mobile devices, a dedicated donation and payment app for your devices, a new 'text-to-give' feature, and a point-of-sale system to replace Square. We're also setting up a parallel system for the Knox Performance Centre to help manage what's happening there and encourage people to make donations towards ongoing upgrades and maintenance. If you've never seen a QR Code before, our donation code is right here. Just use the camera on your phone, click on the link that pops up (don't take a picture), and there you are on the new donation portal where you can make a one-time or ongoing donation. Plus, you get a tax receipt right away or at the end of the year, depending on which option you choose. It's one way that the Finance Committee is support our Evolving Church ministry priority.

Please continue to support the Church's various ministries with time, prayers, and finances.

Doug Hofstede

Chair, Finance Committee

KNOX PERFORMANCE CENTRE

It's hard to believe that 95% of the work we'd planned has been completed. We're still waiting for a few items to arrive that have been delayed because of global equipment shortages, but we're getting there.

While we're waiting for those things to arrive, we're forging ahead with our vision of being a space where community can gather and be formed through the arts and our core values as TrinityUCPG.

The first of those events was the inaugural recital with none other than Angela Hewitt. World renowned as one of the best classical pianists, she graced the stage and made the Fazioli piano come alive. The space was inaugurated in style with a blessing by Elder Lenora Stewart and a wonderful welcome by Chief Logan. Mayor Yu and our own Doug Hofstede (on behalf of the Board) also welcomed people into the renewed space. Cutting the ribbon were representatives from groups that made it possible, Community Arts Council, City of PG, Music Festival, musicians, instructors, accompanists, and groups. Many of whom will be using the space in the near future. It does look very different, yet the atmosphere and the character of the space is just as strong as ever. It was an amazing night that helped prove what's possible when people dare resurrection and won't accept 'not possible' as a way of being. There's lots more information in the 2022 Annual Report, yet here's a couple of pictures from the first event of many.

Speaking of more events, the next one is already happening! The day after Angela Hewitt left town Miracle Theatre began setting up for this year's production of Dancing Lessons which runs from March 30 to April 19 (maybe a bit longer, yet don't wait to get your tickets). It's a production that looks at what happens when a neurotypical and a neurodivergent person form a bond and become friends. There's lots of humour and some poignant social commentary. What's just as impressive is how the space has been transformed into a very comfortable black box theatre…well almost black box. So far, we've been able to prove two things: classical music sounds amazing in the space (duh! We all knew that already) and theatre is also amazing in the same space! In the coming months there will be live music and a dance production that will also put the space through its steps. For now, here's what the set of Miracle Theatre's Dancing Lessons looks like. Yup, that's the front of the sanctuary! (Wait until you see the risers for the chairs)

CARE OF CREATION—SHANNON CARSON

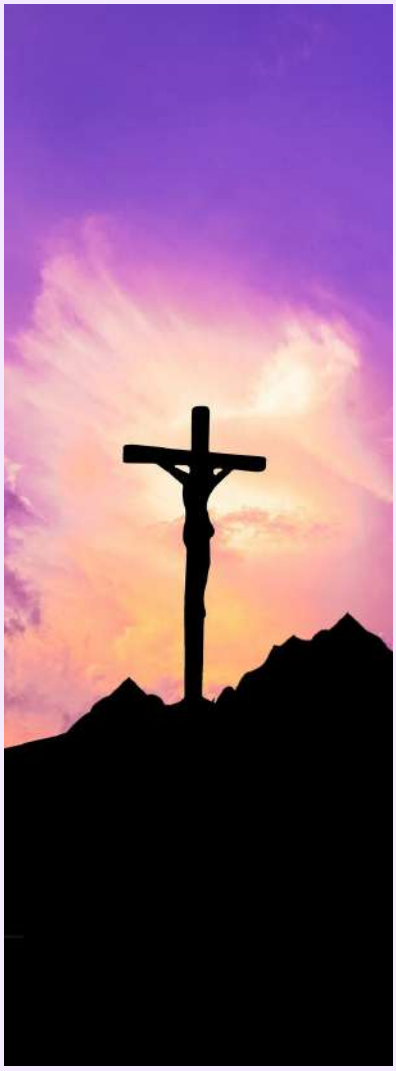
"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." Henry David Thoreau

Your Trinity Care of Creation Team recently completed a video study on *Climate Change 101* based on Project Drawdown's video series. Barb Dean, John Neumann and I lead the session but, as usual, the real 'learnings' were contributed by all who participated.

One of the main items that came out of the study was that we encourage all of Trinity's members to watch the video series which you can find on the Trinity PG website under the Care of Creation Team or if you google Project Drawdown Climate Change 101. If you don't have time for all of the videos, we suggest you watch session #6 titled *Making It Happen* (it is only 14.5 minutes long). The other item that the participants wanted to share with the broader Trinity family is that we came out of the study hopeful that we can have a positive impact on climate change, but we have to make changes and we have to make them in the near future. We liked the following quote: ***"The future is up for grabs. It belongs to any and all who will take the risk and accept the responsibility of consciously creating the future they want."*** Robert Anton Wilson

We encourage you to envision and discuss: what is the future that you want? We have learned that one of the first steps is to start talking about climate change and the solutions.

Our Spring tip to care for creation is provided by Judy Addie and Vic Steblin: Think about bees and other pollinators, when you are planning and working in your yard or garden this year.



If you would like more information about our Team please contact Shannon Carson at 250-961-6989 or sbcarson58@gmail.com.

Luke 24:6-7: "He is not here; he has risen!"

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