

# @TrinityUCPG

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE—REV. BOB

### Gratitude and Hope

Nine years ago, I wrote my first Thanksgiving newsletter piece here in Prince George. I'd just moved here and, perhaps more fitting than anyone realized at the time, our first worship experience together was World Wide Communion Sunday. It was a time when we grounded ourselves in the Holy and looked towards the future with hope and, if we're honest, a little trepidation. That first fall had its challenges. After 25+



years with one minister it was hard to figure out this new guy. Things were different and evolving, maybe a little too fast at times. Yet by Easter, we'd found our stride and what a stride it has been!

When I look back to that first Sunday in October and compare it to this one so much has changed. Do you remember the low-resolution projector on the ceiling that projected onto the wall? Or the cardboard table top we used for an AV booth? Or the sound system? Or the vacant lots out back? Or how easy it was to reserve space in the building? Or how people didn't know where St. Andrew's then Trinity United were located?



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Fast-forward nine years. We merged two congregations and formed a new vibrant and thriving community that was acknowledged in Broadview (the former UC Observer). We took a leap of faith and leased those empty lots to BC Housing for 50 years at the total cost of \$10 so that Harmony House could be built. We embraced the challenge of a fire downtown and turned it into The Knox Performance Centre creating a safer space for live performances and the building of community. Between September and December of 2024 over 6000 people attended an event at The Knox. We started letting the community that we are here and what our core values are. We discerned becoming an Affirming Ministry broadcasting and sharing Queer Worship services with our siblings around the world. We shifted from a landlord/charity model to a partnership model where we work with people and groups. We've gone from 10-15 to over 50. We nurtured our involvement in the wider community to the point where it's hard to attend an event that has volunteers and not see Trinity people helping make it happen. We didn't just survive CoVid19, we thrived! Our digital ministries grew in leaps and bounds crashing servers and peaking at over 1500 viewers. Our extended Trinity family reaches from the Philippines, across Canada and the US, and all the way to Europe. Our technology has...grown! To say it's state of the art is an understatement with livestreaming, multiple cameras, multiple screens, and the only Bluetooth hearing assist system in PG. We survived another fire, this time at the main building when the pulpit was set ablaze. Again, we adapted and shifted downtown while we were cleaning up without missing a beat. We've embraced new people and different ways of doing things. We've helped support sibling congregations around northern BC and you even sent me to Terrace one Sunday a month for 18 months when they needed support the most. We balanced budgets. Built surpluses. Reinvested in ministry. Expanded our staff team. Developed skills and capacity. Nurtured worship assistants (something that is still very unique and rare across the denomination) and worship leaders to the point where during my sabbatical we were able to cover almost 5 months of worship ourselves. We've built a thriving partnership with the arts community in PG, northern BC, and the province. We've expanded financial support for our ministries in ways even I didn't see coming. We hosted the 42<sup>nd</sup> Moderator and pulled off what is still talked about one of the best Regional Annual Meetings. Through it all we cultivated a rich worship life that inspired people to live out their discipleship, to embrace what it means to be a neighbour, to be the hands, voice, and feet of Jesus in the world. (I'm sure I've missed something!)

I use the term 'evolved into' these kinds of ministry because I don't think we became something we weren't. We changed what we did and how we did it, yet the core of who we are as a community of faith has never waived. The values we've articulated as inclusive fellowship, evolving faith, joyful service, being anti-racist, and affirming all have guided, shaped, challenged and encouraged us. It is who we are. My role has simply been to help us live into and out of them as fully as possible. That's the space you provided me. We've grown to trust one another, take risks together, ponder where the Spirit is calling us next, and embrace the future with hope and determination. To say I am grateful for Trinity UCPG and each of the people who are part of it is a vast understatement. I have so many 'highlights' of my time in ministry with you that I honestly don't know where to start. We've laughed together. Pondered together. Been angry and frustrated together. Cried together. Sat in silence together. Prayed together.



Sung together. Sat at bedsides together. And stood at rallies together. You have been a huge part of my life and I'll never forget my time in PG. I've often said that Trinity was the first ministry where I've been able to use all my skills and passions all the time. I still believe that to be true.

There are so many people that have been influential on our ministry together over the last nine years. It's always dangerous to list folks, yet there are some that shaped my time here in ways both profound and lasting. Gary Dean, Marion Bartlett, Maria Brouwer, Les Waldie, Alan Reid, Gabriele Slatter, Shannon Carson, Trish Appleton, Glen Schmidt, Diane Kjørven, John and Joy Warner, Geraldine and Emery Causey, Megan and Don Homan, Wendy and Bill Hudyma, Gerry McKinnon, Marilyn and Jack Blair, Betty Belado, Judy Adie, and Karen Hynd. All I can say is thank you. I hope you understand how gracious and how faithful you've been. I am deeply grateful for the time our journeys intersected and the ability to walk beside you, even if only for a while.

To the staff team as it has grown and evolved overtime. I am so grateful for each of you. As much as people often compliment what I've done, I'm deeply aware that I couldn't have done it without you. It has been an honour to share in leadership with you.

While leaving is always a source of grief for me, leaving Trinity UCPG, is also filled with hope. I look forward to hearing about the great things you do next. The new people you welcome into community. The difference you are able to make in PG and beyond. The ways the Knox Performance Centre will continue to grow and change. How you will continue to cultivate and encourage leaders as they live into their discipleship. I believe you have all the tools you need to continue as a thriving expression of Christian ministry, yet even more than that, I also believe you have the deep faith needed to face whatever challenges lie ahead. The same deep faith that I've come to know, love and respect during my time here.

I leave you with these words from a song I've grown to love. As a Newfoundlander, I can say without hesitation, "we've had some time!". In many ways, it has been the time of my life.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. B.

Green Day 1997

Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road  
Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go  
So make the best of this test, and don't ask why  
It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time

It's something unpredictable  
But in the end, it's right  
I hope you had the time of your life





## OFFICIAL BOARD—GLEN SCHMIDT

**To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

I think I speak for many of our congregants when I say that we were saddened and surprised at Reverend Bob's announcement that he would leaving Trinity United Church at the end of November 2025. Bob has accomplished an incredible amount of work during his period of time with us. I think especially of the development of the Knox Performance Centre and the growth of our digital ministry. These will be lasting legacies of Bob's time at Trinity.

When we face a change like this, it creates a certain amount of anxiety and uncertainty. Ministers are difficult to recruit and finding the right fit for our church may also be a challenge. That being said, the Board has begun to work on setting the process in motion. It is probably safe to say that it is unlikely that we will find a person immediately and we may have to function without a Minister for a period of time. This will require many of our church committees to undertake additional work, at least in the short term. However, I think we have strong capable committees that provide excellent leadership.

It may be easy to become discouraged when we look at the months ahead but change can also create opportunities as well as challenges. I am confident of the strengths, experience, and ability of our congregation to navigate whatever we may face in the coming months.

As a Board we extend our thanks to Bob for his hard work and we wish him well as he moves on to a new opportunity in his spiritual journey.

Glen Schmidt

Board Chair



## CHOIR—ERICA SKOWRON

On December 14 the choir will present our annual Advent/Christmas Cantata. This year we will be presenting “One The Winter Rose “ by Joseph M. Martin. We will be joined by guest narrator, Em Cawsey.

We are in need of extra voices especially male voices to fill out our choir for this event. If you would like to sing with us, please come out to our choir practises on Wednesday nights in the sanctuary. We currently are starting the Cantata portion of the rehearsal at 7:30pm and rehearsal until 8 pm. As we get closer to December 11 we will begin rehearsing the Cantata at 6:30 pm. No experience is necessary just a joy for singing. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

***James 1:17** - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE—DOUG HOFSTEDE

We are halfway through the year and the congregation continues to be very generous, donating close to what is expected at this time of year. M&S donations are also doing well. Going into the summer months, donations have historically slowed. We have a number of ways to give.

Give at the Sunday service.

Drop off an envelope to 3555-5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Join PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). This is a way authorize a regular automatic donation. Fill out the form on the United Church of Canada website.

E-Transfer to [bookkeeper@trinitypg.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@trinitypg.ca).

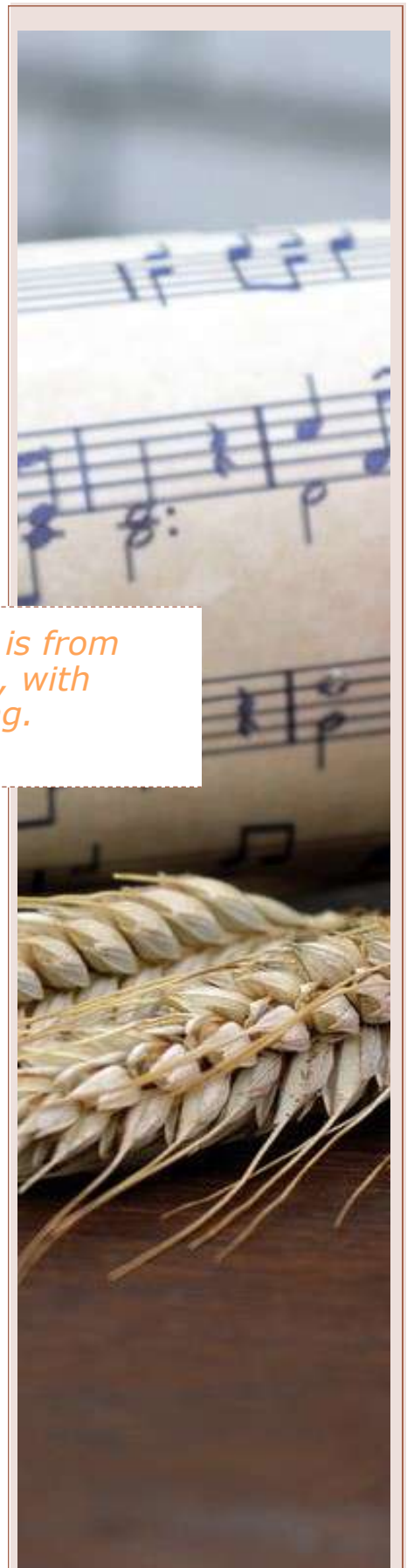
Text “Donate” to 1-844-422-2899

Donate on our website [www.trinitypg.ca](http://www.trinitypg.ca) . There is a donate button on the top right menu on the main web page.

Thank you again for your financial support that makes all our ministry and programs a reality.

Doug Hofstede

Finance Committee Chair



## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE—KEITH TAITE

Fall is a time when we come together and give thanks. This year we have so much to be thankful for and to show our gratitude. Of course, I am referring to our congregation having the opportunity to spend the last 9 years (started Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2016) under the energetic guidance of Rev. Bob. As many of you will know, Rev. Bob will be leaving his role in November to a new calling in Ottawa. While we will miss his enthusiasm, we can rest assured that he is leaving us on a sustainable path to carry on with the ministry our congregation brings to our community and surrounding area. In typical Rev. Bob fashion, he has provided both the Board and M & P committee with a detailed plan to continue the works for both the main church and the Knox Performance Center.

To the remainder of the Trinity staff, the congregation also expresses our gratitude for the roles you play in providing our ministry. We would like to remind staff members that the M & P committee is your avenue for any concerns or questions you may have as it relates to the role of your job, and that each staff member, has a liaison member on the M & P committee. If you are unsure who your liaison person is, contact any of the M & P members to find out.

Based on the United Church of Canada's procedures for the hiring and recruitment of a new Minister for Trinity, the M & P committee anticipates the process will take a timeframe in the range of 8-12 months. This process will be led by the Board with support from the M & P committee. Also, during this transition period the M & P committee will take a more active role in the day-to-day activities of the church, as it relates to staff and workplace circumstances.

Finally, as always, I am thankful for the work, guidance, and efforts of my fellow committee members who will play a key role during the transition period ahead.

Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)

Vicki Brown, Shannon Carson, Heather Neumann , Allan Reed

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE —JULLIAN NARAYAN

The committee has had a busy summer. We were fortunate to have full coverage for Bob when he was on summer vacation. A great thank you to all who were able to give of their time to provide Sunday service leadership.

We have also been able to have a great group of volunteers who have stepped forward to be worship assistants.

As all of you know, Bob will be leaving trinity in November. He has planned out the remainder of the year so we will be able to carry on through to the new year without any disruption each Sunday.

Kendra Mitchell-Foster will be providing service coverage for a number of Sundays each month, and has agreed to help with service outlines for the Sundays that she will not be present.

The worship committee will be reaching out to the congregation for Sunday service support in the areas of worship leader, worship assistant and communion assist.

Jullian Narayan  
Chair  
Worship Committee



## FELLOWSHIP TEAM—CATHIE REID

Hello from the Fellowship Team. We hope that you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer and are now ready for fall activities.

Fall is a busy time for the Fellowship Team. We had our first meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> and have several activities planned.

Dee Neukomm, Lorna Brown, and Karen Smith have been busy making Hats for Kids. Hats for Kids bags will be available at a cost of \$20.00 for bag. The sale will start on Thanksgiving Sunday and continue until mid November. The bags will contain six hats, two small hats, two large hats, and two crocheted hats. Thank you to Judy Adie for delivering the bags to elementary schools in the district.

Planning for the Fall Silent Auction is also underway. The date for the Silent Auction is November 30<sup>th</sup> following Worship. Two work bees are planned. The first one is Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the church kitchen and the second one is planned for 2:30 pm on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in the church hall. Items for the auction can be dropped off at the church at this time. This is a good opportunity to meet the members of the Fellowship Team and learn a little bit about us.

Dee Neukomm, Lorna Brown, and Debbie Keith are making beautiful Christmas gift bags for seniors in care. The bags will be available for filling starting on November 16<sup>th</sup> and need to be returned to the church by December 7<sup>th</sup>. They can be filled with such items as a nice treat, warm non-slip socks, unbreakable Christmas ornament, hand cream, playing cards, lip balm, kleenex etc. They will be distributed at Laurier Manor, Simon Fraser Lodge, and the hospital.

The Fellowship Team also provides coffee, tea, and refreshments after Worship on Sunday mornings. We are currently creating a “Fellowship Light” Team (no meetings to attend) to assist us with this task. If you can help us with coffee making, please speak to Judy Wilson or myself after Worship.

We also provide coffee & tea and assist with serving at Memorial Services as required.

Linda Schmidt sends cards to those who would appreciate a friendly “hello” or “Thinking of You.”

We are very grateful for your support of our projects and our fundraising efforts. All funds go to support Trinity’s various ministries in Prince George.

Cathie Reid,

Chair, Fellowship Team





## OUTREACH COMMITTEE—VICKIE BROWN AND JUDY ADDIE

As Thanksgiving approaches, we think of the members of our community who are unhoused or living in shelters. We think of families who have difficulty with all the extra expenses needed to start the school year. With rising food prices, we think of those who have difficulty putting food on the table. With your help, the Outreach Team at Trinity United strives to fill some of those gaps.

### **Soup Kitchen at St. Vincent's:**

The Outreach Committee serves a soup and sandwich lunch to guests at St. Vincent's on the second Sunday of the month. We usually serve more than 100 bag lunches each time. The lunches include soup, 2 sandwiches, a banana, an orange, and a treat. We wish to thank the sandwich makers, the shoppers, the soup maker, and those who serve downtown. In addition to the bag lunches, other items are available for those in need. In the winter months, guests will be offered socks, toques, gloves, tissues, and hand warmers. In the spring and summer, we offered rain gear, socks, ball caps, and water bottles.

### **A.C.E. Food Pantry:**

The Activity Centre for Empowerment (A.C.E.) provides a drop-in centre and activities for its members. Food items and household supplies are available for those who are on a limited income and need a little extra to stretch their food budget. The A.C.E. bins are in the main entrance on the first Sunday of each month.

### **School Supplies:**

School supplies and backpacks were dropped off at four elementary schools and Harmony House. Thank you for your donations.

### **Drop the Gloves and Sock it to Me:**

We will be collecting NEW mitts, gloves, and socks for men and women in October. They will be included in shoebox gifts and gift bags for St. Vincent's, Harmony House, and The Way. Please leave the tags ON your items.

### **Hallowe'en Goodies:**

If you have extra Hallowe'en candy or chips, please bring them to the church in early November. The treats will be added to the lunch bags at St. Vincent's.

*Thank you for your time, talent, and your donations which allow us to continue this important ministry.*

*Vickie Brown and Judy Addie*

*Co-chairs, Outreach.*





## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.







# Pastoral Care Team



To help us all stay connected we've relaunched our pastoral care team, expect a call from one of the members!

More Info: Contact Marion



## THANKSGIVING POT-LUCK

Oct. 12th | After Worship

Join us for worship and stay for a Thanksgiving Lunch. Turkey, gravy, dressing and mashed potatoes provided everything else depends on what people bring.

## KNOX PRESENTS JAKE'S GIFT

Jake's Gift is a surprisingly funny, multi-award-winning drama, about a Canadian WW2 veteran's reluctant return to Normandy, France, for the 60th anniversary of D-Day. While roaming the shores of Juno Beach.



7:30 | 10/25/2025

TICKETS: KNOXCENTRE.CA



## ACTOR NEEDED

We are looking for one more actor for a small part in this year's Christmas drama. If interested Contact Nancy Shelford, or the office if interested



## DROP THE GLOVES AND SOCK IT TO ME

We are collecting donations of NEW warm socks and winter gloves or mitts for adults & kids. guests at St. Vincent's Soup Kitchen and to children in our partner schools. There is a bin in the main entrance.



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## Chair Yoga

FRIDAYS | 11:15 -12NOON  
FELLOWSHIP HALL | DONATION

DONATIONS GO TOWARDS  
CAMP SPIRIT

