

@TrinityUCPG

### Declaring the Glory of God

An excerpt from Brice G. Epperly's book *From Cosmos to Cradle*, "German mystic Meister Eckhart affirmed all things as 'words of God,' revealing the wisdom and creativity of their Creator. Rhineland spiritual guide Hildegard of Bingen delighted in the green liveliness of the good Earth, and priest-paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin imagined the inner spirit giving passionate birth to the outer expression of cosmic evolution.

The Word made flesh. God has skin, cells, a reproductive system, and a circulatory system. God's touch heals, and God's voice calms and inspires. Our souls and cells equally reveal God's omnipresent and omni-active artistry. The Poet of the Universe is embodied. The Spirit of the Universe is enfleshed. Incarnation reveals the marriage of Creator and creature in all its messiness. Embodiment in all its wonder declares the glory of God."

As I pack things into boxes and sort what needs to come and what needs to find a new home, I find myself sitting in a conflicting, transient space. There is so much to celebrate and appreciate. So much accomplished, yet there is also so much left undone or, at the least, being left for others to do. This in-between space isn't an easy one for me to navigate. Many of you know I like to get things done. Waiting. Not my thing. I wonder if that, in part, is the gift of Advent. It forces us to reconcile our impatience and cultural proclivity towards instant gratification and constant movement with the need to see all things as the words of God, to slow down and notice the liveliness of creation, and be fully present to feel and hear the Holy.

Advent, a time to reflect on the meaning of the approaching celebration of God's ongoing incarnation and all its messiness, grounds us in ways that are simple and complex to make room for something we can't really even begin to imagine.



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Like packing away our summer clothing and bringing out our winter boots or storing the patio furniture and unpacking the heirloom Christmas decorations, Advent marks a transition from what we have known and moves us towards a familiar future with an unrealized potentiality. We know what Christmas is like.

We know what winter entails, especially here in Prince George, yet we don't really know what this particular winter will be like. We have ways to prepare for it. Things we need to do so that we're ready. There are some things we can plan for, like snow shoveling or turning up the thermostat, yet there is also an element of the unknown, and that's where it can get messy. It's also exactly where the incarnation is most profound.

A transition of clergy is never easy. It doesn't matter if you've been planning for two years or three months. Each one is different. Each presents different challenges, unearths things long thought buried and creates a space for people to exert themselves. It also provides a space for new ideas and ways of being to emerge. For new energy to be shared. For passion to be reignited. For new leaders to step up and share the best of themselves. Transitions are challenging, just ask Mary! Yet, here's the thing. Right in the midst of all that messiness is where you'll find God enfleshed. That's where the Spirit shows up.

I've spent the last month going through a series of 'lasts' connected with TrinityUCPG. My last communion, baptism, hospital visit, show, meeting, conversation, activity, soup & sandwich, planning meeting, and so many more. Each one has reminded me of the absolutely incredible community we've created together and how we've lived out its core values. Each book placed in a box is a reminder of the gifts you each are to me. Packing is an opportunity to reflect on the times I've sat at bedsides or had coffee or shared important moments with you. Each 'last' is an opportunity to give thanks for the fact that there was a first to begin with. You've invited me into your lives in ways that are humbling and inspiring. You've shared with me the raw truth of your lives and trusted me to hold them with compassion and understanding. We've laughed together and cried together. And now that time has come to an end, and if I'm honest, I feel like I've betrayed those relationships. Endings are like that. Transitions are like that.

Advent reminds us that God's ongoing incarnation needs space. Sometimes the space needed for something new and incredible to emerge means that something loved and appreciated needs to come to an end. Each box I pack moves me a little closer to saying farewell. I think it's one reason I've procrastinated until the last minute to start. Each box reminds me of what I'm packing away, and more than a few have been stained by a tear. I know that's part of the process. It doesn't make it any easier.

I also know that, like packing a box holds within it the potential of its unpacking, so too does this transition hold within it the huge potential for what TrinityUCPG does next. As we navigate one more transition together, I hope and pray that you will know deep down in the bottom of your souls how special this community is. I hope you know how much I appreciate each of you and the ministry we've been able to accomplish together.



I hope you never lose sight of the core values that have shaped us, the same ones that make you so unique. I hope you realize how much you have to offer Prince George and the wider church. You are an amazing, thriving, and inspiring community of faith, and while Advent is a time of ending, it is also a time to prepare for the next thing that God is doing!

Let me say it one more time, thank you. Thank you for 9 amazing years of embodying what it means to be an inclusive fellowship with a living faith embodied in joyful service while being anti-racist and affirming all. Thank you for letting me be me. Thank you for laughing with me and occasionally at me. Thank you for your trust and willingness to come along on what has been a wild adventure as we've declared the glory of God. Thank you for being TrinityUCPG.

Rev. Bob

## OFFICIAL BOARD — GLEN SCHMIDT

As we enter the Advent Season, we are reminded of the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who brought hope to a troubled world. This time of year, it is interesting to experience Advent through the eyes of children, many of whom are thrilled with the anticipation of what is to come. However, it is wrong to assume that this is the experience of all children. In our world many children live in poverty, some experience starvation and malnutrition, children live in fear of violence, war, and conflict, and children are victims of abuse. These are the sad realities of contemporary society.

In Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth he sought to remind the small Christian community that God is not about chaos and confusion, but God is about peace. This Advent Season and beyond, may we look at ways, however small, to promote peace within our families, church, community, country, and world.

Our church is entering a period of uncertainty as we search for a new Minister. This can produce some anxiety and confusion. It is important that we all look at ways in which we can promote peace rather than confusion. Soon we will light the Candles of Advent, which remind us of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. These virtues need to be our guide as we move forward.

On behalf of the Board of Trinity United Church I want to wish all of you Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus. May you have a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Glen Schmidt

Board Chair

Trinity United Church





## WHO'S DOING WHAT?

As we prepare for a transitional period following Rev. Bob's departure, here's a list of how we will be managing all the various aspects of our ministry. The design is based on trying to ensure that the next Lead Minister doesn't have to take on all the operational aspects of our ministries and can have more of a supportive coordinating role.

**Bill Hudyma** – Property at 3555. Essentially, if there is something to do with the main building, please contact Bill. Bill knows who to contact for what. It's important that all property/maintenance issues go to Bill.

**Erica Skowron** – Erica will continue in her existing role with a couple of changes. If you have janitorial concerns, she is the point of contact with our Janitor. If you want to book space at the main building, she is the point of contact. If Janitorial supplies need to be ordered, she is the one responsible. Erica will also be responsible for ordering sanding of the parking lots during the week. Everything else remains the same. It is important that all things about bookings and janitorial go through Erica.

**Rebecca Fillier** – Rebecca will continue in her role of managing our digital ministry. She will continue to prepare graphics, recordings, manage the box office, light design for the Knox Performance Centre, projection for worship and special services, manage websites and socials, and manage advertising. Their email [av@trinitypg.ca](mailto:av@trinitypg.ca) will remain the same. If you need graphics for announcements, updates to the website, or other digital resources, please let her know.

**Fya Garbutt** – Fya will be the new Teach Team Coordinator starting November 30<sup>th</sup>. Fya will be responsible for coordinating the tech team on Sunday mornings, ensuring all the equipment is operating properly, tech team members are scheduled, training new members, closing up the tech booth and shutting things down. Essentially, Fya will be responsible for all things tech on Sunday mornings.

**Vic Steblin** – Will continue to offer music leadership with the adult choir and during worship.

**Diane Kjorven** – Will continue to offer music leadership with the adult choir, especially the summer choir.



**Janitorial** – Will be managed by a team of people from AimHi as part of our new janitorial agreement.

**CJ Klitch** – Will continue to offer leadership for first third (Trinity Kids) and donation recording.

**Gabriele Slater** – Will be the new Trinity Downtown Property Manager starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. Gabriele will be responsible for managing everything related to TrinityDT, from the calendar, contracts, and bookings to janitorial, snow clearing, and ordering supplies. Essentially, if it has to do with TrinityDT or the Knox Performance Centre, Gabriele is your person. It is important that anything to do with TrinityDT goes to Gabriele. [TrinityDT@trinitypg.ca](mailto:TrinityDT@trinitypg.ca)

**Katherine Benny** – Will be the new Artistic Director for the Knox Performance Centre. Katherine will be managing everything related to our Knox Presents series, including booking artists, grant writing, reporting, bookings, promotions, joint presentation partnerships, and reporting. Katherine will be working closely with Gabriele. Essentially, if it has to do with the Knox Presents series, Katherine is the contact. [AD@knoxcentre.ca](mailto:AD@knoxcentre.ca)

**Connor Pritchard** – Will be the new Technical Director for the Knox Performance Centre. Connor will manage all aspects of production for the Knox Presents Series and will work closely with Katherine and Gabriele.

**Dream Team** – Working closely with Gabriele will be a new Dream Team of Gary Dean, Katherine Benny, and Connor Pritchard, who will help continue the process of updating TrinityDT to serve our community even better and live into its role as part of our outreach ministry. They will have responsibility for planning, coordinating, and overseeing any future capital projects.

In short, if it's about:

The main building at 3555 – it's Bill or Erica.

Trinity DT at 1448 – it's Gabriele

Digital Ministry – Rebecca

Tech for Worship – Fya

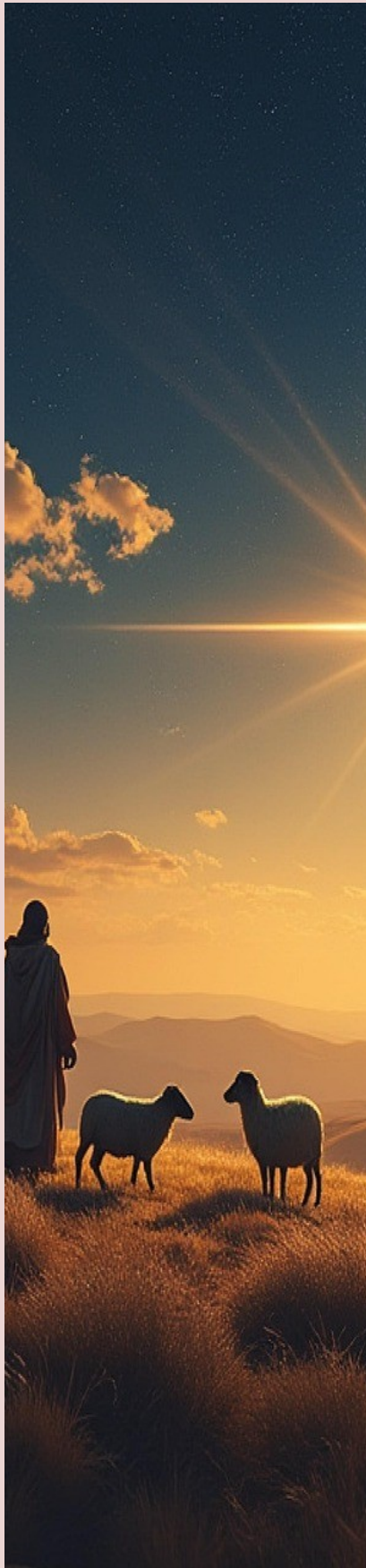
Music – Erica, Vic, or Diane

Knox Performance Centre – Rebecca, Gabriele, or Katherine

Janitorial – Erica for 3555 or Gabriele for 1448

Space Rental or Partnerships – Erica for 3555 or Gabriele for 1448





## FINANCE COMMITTEE—DOUG HOFSTEDE

Happy Advent season to you all.

First, I'd like to thank all the Counters that have been diligently counting the offerings every Sunday throughout the year. This is an essential part of the Finance Committee that often goes unseen. Thank you.

The Finance Committee has been reviewing and tracking the church's finances all year and we are grateful for the congregation's continued financial support of the ministry and community programming that makes Trinity a positive influence in our community. Your support of programs across the globe through the Mission and Service fund of the United Church of Canada also continues to be wonderful. We have already surpassed our 2025 M&S goal (budget \$22,000 – actual donations \$23,337 -as of Oct 31). Thank you to all those contributing financially and we pray for those important services around the world.

Earlier this year to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada, we established an endowment fund with the Prince George Community Foundation called the Knox Legacy Fund. The 100 for 100 campaign was promoted to help reach the initial goal of \$10,000. I'm happy to announce that we have reached that goal and surpassed it. We have reached \$17,205 so far and it is still growing. It can be contributed to at any time for any amount. One of the benefits of partnering with the Foundation is that it can attract donation from throughout the community and can be easily incorporated into estate planning.

Rentals for both buildings is also doing well but our regular offerings are slightly lower than expected for this time of year and expenses are up slightly. Overall, as of October 31 we have spent 3% more than we brought in totalling a deficit of \$9,220. Historically, this is not out of the ordinary for this time of year. The Knox performance centre continues to be busy, and we hope the congregation will continue to contribute to ensure we end the year in a positive position.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON BOOK STUDY

Mondays at 3:30pm  
**On Zoom**





There is another way to support the church if you regularly shop at Save-On-Foods. When you purchase Save-On-Foods gift cards from customer service and let them know you are part of Trinity United, they will give a percentage of the value of the cards to the church. You can use the cards at their full-face value when you pay for your groceries.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank you all again for your continued financial support, of the programs and ministries of Trinity United church and the positive impact we have on our community. We would also like to thank Rev. Bob for his support of the committee and wish him well in his new endeavours.

Doug Hofstede

Finance Committee Chair

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*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” —Luke 2:14*

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## CHOIR—ERICA SKOWRON

On December 14, the choir will present our annual Advent/Christmas Cantata at 10 am as part of our regular Sunday service. This year we will be presenting “The Winter Rose” by Joseph M. Martin. Our narrator is Em Cawsey.

The Choir has been working on this presentation since September. We hope that you will join us On December 14.

There will be no choir rehearsal on December 31.

Merry Christmas

Erica Skowron, Choir Director



## M & P COMMITTEE—KEITH TAITE

What is advent? The meaning we typically think of as a congregation is the first season of the Christian church, including the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent is also defined as the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. As I think through these definitions it is not lost on me that just before the beginning of advent, we will be losing a notable member of our congregation with Rev. Bob moving onto a new life venture. It does mean; however, that the new congregation Rev. Bob is called to, will experience the arrival of a notable person as he begins his duties on the first Sunday of advent.

As for our church and congregation, I cannot help but wonder as we go through this period of transition, who will be the notable person that makes a difference for our church. What will be the notable event that will take us and our church to the next chapter of our journey. These people and events will likely be different for each of us; we just need to open ourselves up to the opportunities that are ahead. So, as we say farewell to Rev. Bob and prepare for the search of a new minister, feel free to connect with members of the M&P Committee if there are questions or concerns for staffing.

The committee wishes to thank all of our staff for the work they put into our Ministry throughout the year, and especially during the transition to a new minister beginning. We understand that during the transition period it may mean an increase in some of your roles, so feel free to reach out to your liaison member from the M&P committee if support is needed.

Finally, I personally would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Committee members for making our group great to work within. Best wishes this holiday season.

The M&P Committee, also sends to the congregation best wishes this holiday season.

Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)

Committee Members:

Vicki Brown

Shannon Carson

Allan Reed

Heather Neumann

### *Christmas for Seniors*

Some people in seniors residences don't get a present at Christmas. We want to ensure they know they're not forgotten. Pickup a Christmas bag to fill with goodies at the office. Bags and content list available November 3rd.

PLEASE IDENTIFY THE BAG FOR MALE OR FEMALE (M/F).  
RETURN BY DEC. 1ST





## FELLOWSHIP TEAM—CATHIE REID

First of all, I would like to thank you for your support of our Fall fundraisers. The Hats for Kids sale raised \$440.00, and the October muffin sale raised \$196.00. The funds have been dedicated to the purchase of a new freezer for the kitchen.

The Advent season is a busy one for everyone. Our fall Silent Auction is on November 30<sup>th</sup> following Worship. We are holding two work bees, one on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the kitchen and the other one is on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. You can drop your items off at those times or you can drop them off any time that the office is open. You can also join us for a work bee and get to know the ladies on the Fellowship Team.

Our next fundraiser is the very popular Christmas Cookie Sale which is on December 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a good way to get some beautiful Christmas baking. We will be having a work bee on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the kitchen.

We are also doing some Christmas Gift Bags for Seniors. The bags can be filled with such things as warm socks, nice treat, hand cream, crossword puzzles etc. Please return the bags to the church by December 7<sup>th</sup>. They will then be delivered to Simon Fraser Lodge, Laurier Manor, and the hospital.

Finally, I would like to thank Reverend Bob Fillier for his support of the Fellowship Team. He has always provided guidance and support to us during his time at Trinity. We send our Best Wishes to Bob, Victoria, and Rebecca as they begin their new ministry in Ottawa.

Cathie Reid, (Chair, Fellowship Team)





## WORSHIP COMMITTEE - JULLIAN NARAYAN

With Rev. Bob leaving we have been able to put together services up until December 28th and into the new year.

November 23—Rev. Bob's last Sunday

November 30—Advent 1—Worship Leader—Kendra

December 7—Advent 2—Worship Leader—Kendra—Communion

December 14th—Advent 3—Choir Cantata

December 21 - Advent 4—Trinity Kid's Play

December 24th—3 pm Kids and Chaos—C.J. And Helper

- 7 pm Family Service—Carols and Readings

Worship Leaders—Sandy and Roberta Long

December 28th—Carols Readings and Reflection—at Trinity Main Campus 3555 5th Avenue

## TRINITY KIDS—C.J. KLITCH

Hello everyone! Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season coming up!

We have been having varying numbers and have had some new faces again that are starting to repeat in Trinity Kids. We have been learning lessons that tie in with the regular sermon each week and the children have been enjoying some music and crafts that tie in with the lessons. Examples of many of the crafts are on the bulletin board, ask your child what each craft means and see what they remember! Topics we have covered include the Spirit strengthening our hearts so Jesus can live in there, various ways to worship, thankfulness, and giving willingly and gladly.

I hope to see the children in your lives as we move into advent and learn what that means and as we begin getting ready for the upcoming Christmas pageant! Also, don't forget to mark your calendar for the Christmas Eve 4:00 sermon for a short child centered Christmas sermon full of crafts, carols, and a story.

Thank you,

CJ Klitch (she/her)  
Trinity Kids Coordinator





## CAMPUS UNITED—KENDRA MITCHELL-FOSTER

This year has been eventful for Campus Ministry at UNBC. On campus, we offer drop-in chapel on Wednesday mornings, weekly free drop-in yoga in collaboration with the First Nations Student Centre, monthly Wild Church in the UNBC Botanical Gardens, monthly hikes (weather permitting) on the campus trails, a once-monthly interfaith labyrinth meditation, a once-monthly free soup lunch as part of the Free Soup Fridays program at the UNBC Interfaith Spiritual Care Centre, and a monthly Knitting & Healing Circle in collaboration with the Northern Women's Centre. We also hold special events and programs, our favourite being our jam-making workshops; we also offer off campus hikes (our last one was to Raven Lake), F1 Race Screening Stressbuster series, Grieving Through the Holidays workshops, our Coldest Night of the Year walking team, and we coordinate yearly interfaith food drives to support the Northern UnderGraduate Student Services (NUGSS – UNBC) foodbank.

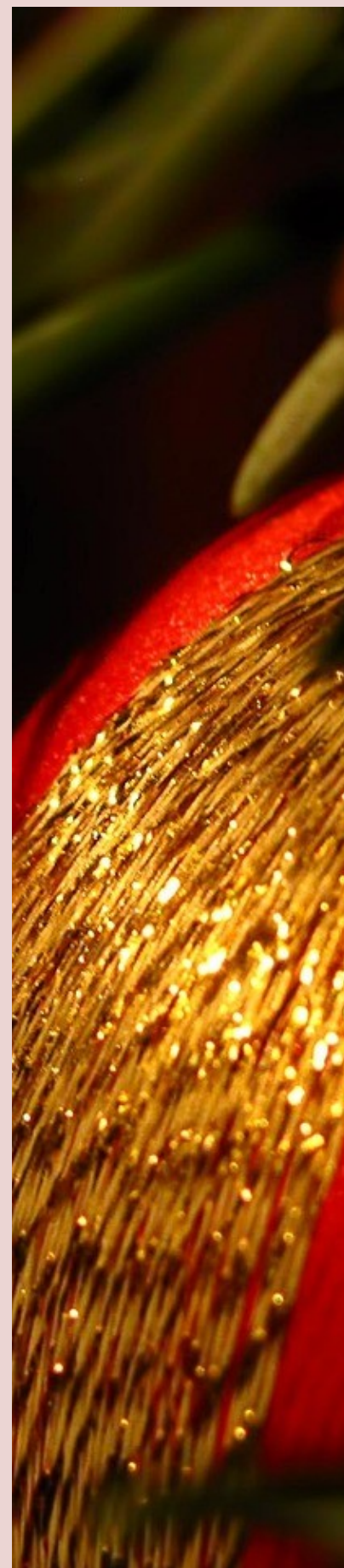
This year, with our Community Connectors Amaan Hingora and Kessie Delege, we are developing a deeper church connection through the Sanctuary D&D program launching November 2025. It is our hope to have more relationship building with Trinity Youth and Campus United groups, and to build a relationship between Trinity United's homes both at our Spruceland and Knox buildings.

## AFFIRMING MINISTRY—KENDRA MITCHELL-FOSTER

We continue to be a thriving presence for Affirming Ministry in Northern BC. By the time 2025 comes to a close, we will have held eight Queer Worship services, four of which were featured live-stream worship for the Pacific Mountain Region Affirming Ministry Network. This year, both Rev. Bob and Rev. Kendra offered worship on PIE Day for the regional service. This is something to celebrate! Our next Queer Worship will be Queer Xmas this December, marking the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since we began this ministry in 2020.

We held two screenings of Mama Bears this year, one for PIE Day (our National Affirming Day) on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and another in collaboration with the PG Pride Society for PG Pride Week on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Both screenings were followed by open, kind and passionate discussion regarding the importance of Affirming Ministry in our community.

As well, our booth at the PG Pride Festival was very well attended, with a number of folks expressing gratitude for our ministry in PG and beyond. We marched in the parade this year, and we had an exquisitely decorated vehicle (complete with children throwing candy for the crowd), bubbles streaming from our marching group, and Campus United UNBC joined in with us.







## OUTREACH COMMITTEE—VICKIE BROWN AND JUDY ADDIE

As the Christmas season approaches, we think of those who face cold, hardship, and food insecurity. Thank you for your donations over the past few months.

### Soup Kitchen:

Socks and gloves were collected in the annual Drop the Gloves and Sock it to Me campaign. The Sock Toss in November was a great success with over 120 pairs of gloves and socks donated. Thanks to Rev. Bob for being such a good sport.

Your Shoebox Christmas gifts will be given to guests at the St. Vincent's Soup Kitchen on December 14. Last year, 140 gifts were given out downtown. Gifts were also given to The Way (a ministry that holds services at Trinity Downtown) and to Harmony House. Our goal is to have the same number this year. We hope that you can contribute by making a shoebox gift or by donating towards one. The choir usually makes gifts for women, and the congregation's gifts will go to men who are in need.

If you are making up a Shoebox Christmas gift, please include **new** items and **avoid any alcohol-based** cologne or hand sanitizer. Here are some ideas:

- gloves or mitts
- toque or headband
- neck warmer or scarf
- warm socks (remove the plastic bits)
- toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, lip balm
- deodorant, soap, shampoo, tissues, comb
- puzzle book or playing cards (optional)
- small flashlight or glow stick (optional)
- hot chocolate, coffee, or cup of soup (optional)
- candies (individually wrapped or in a small bag)



Please pack your gifts in a shoebox or small plastic bin, label it for a male (M), female (F), or gender neutral (\*\*\*) and bring it to the **office by noon on Dec. 10.**



The Outreach Committee will continue to serve a soup and sandwich lunch from the window at St. Vincent de Paul throughout the winter months. Your help making sandwiches or serving is welcome. We will be collecting gently used gloves, socks, and toques throughout the winter.

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

The Activity Centre for Empowerment ( A.C.E.) appreciates your donations of non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies throughout the year. Items are collected in bins on the first Sunday of the month. It's especially important to have a full pantry at A.C.E. over the holiday season because there is a longer gap between social assistance cheques in December and January. Individually wrapped treats, chocolates, and cookies will also brighten the holiday season.

### **Holiday Gift Ideas:**

If you are thinking of a gift for a friend or family member who lives far away or who doesn't really need more 'stuff', perhaps you can send a card that says " A Shoebox Gift was packed in your honour", or " In lieu of a gift, warm gloves were given to folks in need", or " A donation was made to help someone who needs to choose rent over food".

Many thanks for your contributions whether it is a Shoebox gift, items for A.C.E., or a financial contribution dedicated to Outreach. Your time is appreciated; it will make a difference for someone this holiday season.

Judy Addie and Vickie Brown

Co-chairs, Outreach Committee

November 2025



### **Trinity United Church**

3555 5th Avenue  
Prince George, BC  
V2M 1K8

Phone: 250-563-9167

E-mail:

[office@trinitypg.ca](mailto:office@trinitypg.ca)

[www.trinitypg.ca](http://www.trinitypg.ca)



## **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES**

Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Toiletries,  
Puzzles, Cards, Gift Certificates,  
Socks, Books, Sweets

**\*Please no alcohol based mouthwash,  
aftershave or cologne!**