



# Trinity United

JAN  
2018

## Guelph United Performers Presents: **The Paradise Hotel**

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At Trinity United Church  
400 Stevenson St. North

Friday March 2, 2018, 7 pm

Tickets: \$ 10/ adult; 16 & under free

Meet the cast and refreshments to follow

Come and enjoy a visit to our 6-Star Hotel, located in  
The Middle of Nowhere, just North of Guelph!!!

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY GUELPH UNITED MINISTRIES!!!

Can you believe that it was five years ago that Guelph United Ministries, a partnership of Chalmers Community Services Centre, Ecumenical Campus Ministries, Dublin Street, Harcourt Memorial, Three Willows and Trinity was formed? Our first gathering for Joint Worship happened on December 1<sup>st</sup> with over 900 gathered at John F. Ross with our former moderator, Rev. Gary Paterson speaking on the parable of "new wine and old wineskins" from Luke 5:34-35.

A lot has happened since that first gathering and we have grown in our collaboration and sharing of our ministries as the United Church together here in Guelph. **Behold I make all things new!** was our theme song. Now we are busily planning something new for this spring, this time of blossoms and blooms and signs of new life. Why not for our church? "Look ahead with joy! Anticipate what I'm creating" God says in Isaiah 65.

Please set aside the weekend of April 28 & 29<sup>th</sup>. Saturday will be day to gather to worship, pray, dream, share, sing together. We are hoping Rev. John Pentland will be our guest speaker. We are still in the planning stages but we hope you will set aside these dates for a time together that you won't want to miss!!!

'A welcoming, caring family of faith, celebrating God's love in Jesus.'

Core Value Statement 2008

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

Isaiah 65:17 "New Heavens and a New Earth"

*"Pay close attention now: I'm creating new heavens and a new earth.  
All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten.  
Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I'm creating"*

For the past several weeks with some days temperatures rising and falling by double digits and one day we're in raincoats and the next in full parkas. Our weather reflects the nature of the changing seasons of our lives, as we adjust to each new day as it comes in whatever form. Throughout our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season our sermon themes focused on Brene Brown's book "The Gifts of Imperfection: Letting Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are". She speaks of vulnerability, courage, worthiness and shame and shares what she calls guideposts on the power of "Wholehearted living; a way of engaging with the world from a place of worthiness".

I think that is the attitude that Jesus showed to so many as he engaged in conversations with people from all walks of life and circumstance. He held no judgment but celebrated the person for who they were and where they were on their life's journey. He lovingly both encouraged and challenged folk to live the lives they were capable of and to embrace their sense of self worth & dignity. We have looked at how to let go of all kinds of ways in which we are sometimes overly critical of ourselves and others and considered how to embrace diversity & difference. We have encouraged creativity and risk-taking to transform our lives into the "new thing" God dreams for each of us.

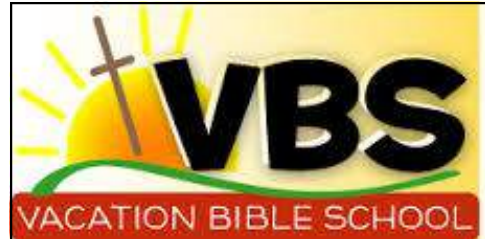
As we approach the season of Lent & Easter, we will consider other ways of letting go. Another great thinker of our time; Sallie McFague wrote "Blessed Are the Consumers: Practicing Restraint in a Culture of Consumption". She challenges Christians to seriously consider their role as counter culture revolutionaries or prophets in the face of climate change and economic disparity. She writes: "The most significant challenge the religions could undertake for the well-being of our planet and its inhabitant...is "restraint". She quotes a 2010 article from *The State of The World* subtitled "Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability" with a lead story by Gary Gardner who suggests that religions must be major players in the most important 2-sided crisis of our time: economics and ecology. Gardner writes: "the greatest contribution the world's religions could make to the sustainability challenge may be to take serious their own ancient wisdom on materialism. Their special gift –the millennial old paradoxical insight that happiness is found in self-emptying, that satisfaction is found more in relationships than in things, and that simplicity can lead to a fuller life – is urgently needed today".

Who said the church is no longer relevant? We have a true calling, a voice to be heard! As I mentioned last Sunday, we can be agents of transformation. This Lenten season, the forty days before Easter, let's open ourselves to the paths the Spirit is creating for us. Let's consider what it means to live with "restraint". Let's listen, let's pray, let's explore, let's act and truly be a part of this "New thing" God is calling for us to do both for and in the world.

Peace & Blessings, Rev.Gaylyn

## Our Gratitude List...

- To those who participated in and attended our cantata, "Tapestry of Light—A Celtic Christmas Celebration" in December and to Andrea for her direction of this fabulous evening!
- To those who supported the Chalmers Community Services Gift Bag program by filling a bag with toiletries and personal items
- To those who donated items for, and assisted with, the Gifts to Give program reaching out in our community
- To those who responded to our White Gift Collection. \$945 in cash and gift cards were donated.
- To the organizers, donors and all who contributed to another successful Holly Fair Bazaar, the best bazaar in the city!
- To Ken Chupa, our Chair of Council, for his excellent leadership.
- To those who assisted with decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season. It was a beautiful setting for our Advent services, the Cantata and Christmas Eve service.
- To those who lead our Meditation Series in Advent and helped us to quiet our hearts for the coming of Christmas.
- To our counters who count the Sunday offerings each week
- To our Sunday coffee/refreshment hosts
- To our funeral ambassadors, Barbara Moldenhauer, Julie and Chris Arthey.



**March 12—16, 2017**  
**9—12 noon**  
 in Trinity Hall

This year's program will be  
**"More than a Movie"**

It is free and we welcome children 5 - 12 for stories, songs, snacks, games & crafts.

Registration forms available through the Church Office.

**(Summer VBS will run July 16-20)**

## HELP US TO KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE...

If you are receiving Trinity Voices and other church mailings and wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call the Church Office at (519) 824-4800, Ext. 1 or email Sharon at the address below.

Help us to save on mailing costs and join our email distribution list by contacting us at [info@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:info@trinityunitedguelph.ca).



# 12th Guelph Girl Guides Pancake Supper



**Tues Feb 13, 5 – 7:30 pm**

Adults/Children over 10 Years: \$5.00  
Under 5 Years of Age: Free

Come out to Trinity Hall and have a great meal served by the Girl Guides

## Sunshine Club

We were saddened at the loss of long time Sunbeam, Gwen Stewart in November. Gwen enjoyed visiting with the Sunshine card players when she served them their tea and coffee. Her loss will be felt by the volunteers and card players alike.

Our sympathy is extended to Sunbeam, Bea Bell on the recent loss of her husband Bill. Bill was our bell-ringer for years and he enjoyed his weekly cards. We also extend our sympathy to the family of Don Snider, another Sunshine Club member. Don's quiet demeanour was enjoyed by all.

We welcome anyone who enjoys euchre or bridge to join us Wednesdays from 11:45 am – 2:45 pm. Bring your bag lunch and we'll provide tea and/or coffee.

## Gifts to Give by Heather Chesney

This year again the Outreach Committee continued the vision for Gifts to Give which Margaret Swanson and Ruth Cooke had back in 2011. It took place on November 25. We were able to help 35 families which included 147 individuals. One person was "shopping" for 27 people!!



This event would not have been possible without the help of various members of the congregation: those who donated carefully washed gifts ready for giving, those who sorted out the different categories, those who helped set up the tables, the coffee and goodies makers, the gift wrappers, and finally those who packed up the leftovers to be donated to charities who can use them and delivered them. Thank you all for your support.

In addition to Margaret and Ruth, thanks go to Rick Swanson, Noreen Ueberer, Leanne Stonehouse, Dave Chesney, Joyce Flewelling, Shirley Hooper, Cathy Kidston, Heather Cowborough, Savannah Cowborough, Linda Cowborough, Barb McPhee, Donna Moore, Judy Sweeney, Susan Randell, Kathy Stephens, Judi Erin, Madison Royer, Kelly Royer, Farah Shaygan, Norine Chupa, Judy Hales, and Sue Beemer. Special thanks go to Everett Creamer, Margaret and Rick Swanson's grandson who, at the age of 8, has mastered the art of wrapping presents! He must be following in his grandparents' footsteps!



*It is with regret that we have received the letter of Resignation of Lenny Fonte. We have come to know Lenny and will miss his smiling face and pleasant demeanour. We wish him and all his family all the best in their future.*

### **Update on New Sound System** (by Chris Arthey)

The committee for the new sound system for the sanctuary met on Tuesday January 16th with the prospective vendors. We spent about 2 hours with each vendor going over their quotes and asking questions.

After the second meeting, the committee discussed the proposals given to us by each vendor. It was decided after much discussion, and I'm pleased to announce, that we proceed with Horizon Solutions out of London to install our new sound system. This is the same company that installed the projection system in our sanctuary.

We don't have a starting date as of yet but hope to start late March or early April. We are very excited about this news and we look forward to bringing you more updates.

### **TRINITY VOICES**

Deadline submission for the next Trinity Voices is Sunday, March 4. Email submissions to [info@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:info@trinityunitedguelph.ca) or leave a hard copy in the folder on the church office door.



Christmas Creche Collection—November 18th  
Trinity's contribution to the GUM Doors Open Weekend



GUP Community Children's Choir participate in White Gift Service  
Sunday, December 3rd

# Meditation at Trinity

As the hectic busyness of Christmas was approaching, it felt like a good time to offer “A Little Peace and Quiet” to help create a more peaceful Christmas season.

So ... during the four weeks of Advent, meditation sessions were offered weekly on Tuesdays from 9 – 9:30 am. The theme for the 4 sessions was taken from one of our hymns, *Come and Find the Quiet Centre*. In it, Shirley Erena Murray says:

*Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.*



These words invite us to find the peace and quiet that the meditation is meant to support. There was a different meditation each week, with several leaders. Each meditation included a guided meditation and a time of silent meditation. We focussed on 4 different topics:

- Just Breathe
- Clear the Clutter
- What Matters....
- Simply Be

As part of Trinity’s active participation in our community, we wanted to make the sessions welcoming, comfortable and inviting for anyone who chose to come, whether or not they were Trinity members. And we were happy to have a wonderful mix of participants! Our numbers ranged from about 12 (on a very snowy day) to about 30.

**Join us for Meditation in the  
Sanctuary  
Tuesdays from 9:30-10 am**

**February 13  
February 27  
March 13  
March 27  
April 10  
April 24**

This series of meditations was well received, so a second series is planned for February, March and April. These will take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9:30 – 10:00 am (note the change of time). So, we will meditate together on: **February 13, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, and April 24**. Come for all, or for as many as you wish, or are able. Bring a friend, a family member, or come on your own. All are welcome!

## Rev. David Maginley speaks at Trinity, Monday October 16

Rev. David Maginley spoke about his own cancer experiences and the realities of a near-death event; so powerful that together they have formed the foundation of his work as a spiritual counsellor in Halifax area hospitals. He brought some of the crucial elements that have made him a 'seeker':

- A powerful personal experience
- A personal and professional commitment to honouring the experiences of others
- An intellectual curiosity about the study of near death experiences
- A grounding in the framework of his formal faith teachings
- A respect for the mystical wonder that underlies all faith



His talk responded to the often unspoken longing that people have to hear their experiences validated and believed, especially when the staggering holiness of those experiences is unmistakable. He touched on the similarities of near death experiences, the research that has been collected and how it might inform the practices of those who serve others at end of life.

Rather than an experience of sadness, he offered the possibility of seeing grief as beautiful, as a natural extension of loving deeply. His example of a willingness to set aside his own human judgement to serve people and their overwhelming regrets in dying with peace was a lesson for all of us, in death and in life.

Rev. Maginley also spoke with respect of faith in general, not just his own. That element made it easy to use the lens of one's own faith beliefs in understanding his talk. His curiosity about 'what is' was a wonderful invitation to audience members to take one step further into the exploration of the mystical.

Above all, he set an example for those serving at the end of life to deepen their compassion, for those they serve and for themselves. He gave us permission to witness and wonder about these magical experiences, even if we don't understand them ... yet.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> following the service

A Signup Sheet for the Soup Luncheon will be posted outside the kitchen. Please bring your soup in a crockpot (we'll need approximately 10-12 soups) along with a copy of your soup recipe(s).



## SHARING THE MEANING OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE...

During Advent, various members of the congregation shared the meaning of hope, peace, joy and love. Here's what they had to say:

### **Hope** (shared by Hal & Ann Osborne)

What Hope Means: Desmond Tutu says that Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all the darkness.

We hope on so many levels:

- That we get a parking spot when we are rushed for time
- That family will be home for Christmas
- For health and wellness for ourselves, for people we know, and for people we don't know
- We hope that the world leaders will find wisdom and make choices that are for the good of all
- All kinds of things!

As our circumstances change, what we hope for can change, too. That's OK – even if hope is different, there is still hope.

I love that the first Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Hope – beginning our journey to Christmas with the hope of what can be. Never give up hope. When darkness falls ... the stars come out.

### **Peace** (shared by Jo-Anne Angle)

- I see Peace on the faces of the Military as they prepare to leave their families to work for peace in the world.
- I see peace on the faces of children singing in church
- I see peace when I remember that the reason for God's gift of Jesus Christ at Christmas was to show all the world how God wanted us to live.
- Peace begins and is felt in our hearts.

### **Joy** (shared by Ruth Switzer)

What is joy to me?

- Joy is my teenage grandchildren, giving me hugs and kisses without prompting.
- Joy in our house is when the Montreal Canadiens win a hockey game, especially when they beat Toronto (sorry John). It's been a rough season so far, but hope springs eternal.
- Joy is knowing that tomorrow, our son Michael and his lovely wife Teresa, who live in Peachland BC, will be arriving here for Christmas. This will be Teresa's first Christmas ever in the east, and Mike's first Christmas at home in more than twenty years. We'll also get to celebrate Mike's birthday in person on New Year's Eve. To say that we are beyond excited, is something of an understatement!
- Joy is knowing that, for the two weeks Mike and Teresa are with us, I won't have to cook a thing.

### **Love** (shared by Heather Martin)

On the evening of December 18th Andrea had her Christmas recital for her students. As most of you will know Andrea teaches voice and piano. On that evening I witnessed love in action. It was shown in a young woman with Down syndrome signing silent night so proudly for her family and it was shown in a young girl with autism spectrum disorder who was dressed as Cossette and singing *Castle in a Cloud* from Les Miserables. Both were filled with so much joy and enthusiasm. Some music teachers would not want to work with souls of differing abilities, but Andrea does. Andrea helps them to enjoy music and to share their gifts to the best of their potential and they and everyone who knows them is blessed by this. This is love.



## Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved  
I adjusted my tie.  
I got there and sat  
In a pew just in time.

Bowing my head in prayer  
as I closed my eyes.

I saw the shoe of the man next to me  
touching my own. And I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side  
I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'  
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine  
but it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: 'Our Father'  
I thought, 'This man with the shoes has no pride.  
They're! dusty, worn, and scratched.  
Even worse, there are holes on the side!'

'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.  
The shoe man said. A quiet 'Amen.'  
I tried to focus on the prayer  
but my thoughts were on his shoes again.

Aren't we supposed to look our best  
when walking through that door?  
'Well, this certainly isn't it,'  
I thought, glancing toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended  
and the songs of praise began.  
The shoe man was certainly loud  
sounding proud as he sang.

His voice lifted the rafters.  
His hands were raised high.  
The Lord could surely hear  
the shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering  
and what I threw in was steep.  
I watched as the shoe man reached  
into his pockets so deep.

I saw what was pulled out.  
What the shoe man put in.  
Then I heard a soft 'clink'  
as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me  
to tears, and that's no lie.  
It was the same for the shoe man.  
for tears fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service  
as is the custom here,  
we must greet new visitors  
and show them all good cheer.



But I felt moved somehow  
and wanted to meet the shoe man.  
So after the closing prayer  
I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark.  
His hair was truly a mess.  
But I thanked him for coming  
and being our guest.

He said, 'My names' Charlie.  
I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'  
There were tears in his eyes  
but he had a large, wide grin.

'Let me explain,' he said  
wiping tears from his eyes.  
'I've been coming here for months  
and you're the first to say 'Hi.'"

'I know that my appearance  
is not like all the rest,  
but I really do try  
to always look my best.'

'I always clean and polish my shoes  
before my very long walk,  
but by the time I get here  
they're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'

My heart filled with pain  
and I swallowed to hide my tears  
as he continued to apologize  
for daring to sit so near.

He said, 'When I get here  
I know I must look a sight  
but I thought if I could touch you,  
then maybe our souls might unite.'

I was silent for a moment  
knowing whatever was said  
would pale in comparison.  
I spoke from my heart, not my head.

'Oh, you've touched me,' I said.  
and taught me, in part;  
that the best of any man.  
is what is found in his heart.'

The rest, I thought,  
this shoe man will never know  
like just how thankful I really am  
that his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

You are special to me and  
you have made a difference in my life.  
I respect you, and truly cherish you.

## TRINITY'S SPRING



**Friday April 13th 3pm - 8pm**  
**Saturday April 14th 7am - 12 noon**

Something for everyone including jewellery.  
Meat pies for sale.

No large furniture, appliances or TVs  
For more information or for donation pickup,  
please call Ron McMillan 519 823 2468.

## EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**Sunday, April 1st, 2018, 8:30 am**  
in Trinity Hall



*Scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, peameal  
bacon, homefries, muffins, juice, coffee*

6-8 folks are needed to assist.

Suggested donation \$8.00

Sign up by March 26th on the bulletin board  
outside of Rev. John's office to volunteer or  
if you'd like to attend the breakfast.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR EASTER

Those who wish to make a "Memorial Gift" will be  
able to do so through the Memorial Fund in  
honour or memory of their loved one.  
Those names will be posted prior to Easter in the  
bulletin and on the screens.



Easter flowers will be purchased by the  
Worship committee to decorate the sanctuary at  
Easter but no flowers will be delivered to shut ins



Christmas Cantata  
Sunday, December 10

## Sunday, March 4 ...

Submission deadline for the next issue of Trinity Voices  
Email submissions to [info@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:info@trinityunitedguelph.ca)

Mark this on your calendar...



## Voyage from Circuit Stop to GUM... Guelph's United Church Ministries working in collaboration (by Wynne Wright)

*The Story continues...*

In 2011, an event occurred which diverted our attention from the ongoing issues with Norfolk. The head office of the United Church of Canada was in the position of having to move, and proposals were sought for possible destinations.

Some members of Norfolk, along with City of Guelph officials and Presbytery members felt that this city might be a suitable environment for the new head office. Through the co-operation of all of the individuals and organizations, a formal proposal was made and video conferences with the selection committee took place. Basically, the proposal was for a new building to be built, either on a long term lease or owned, and several possible locations in the city were considered. Significantly, the Norfolk building was not one of the possible locations, as it was simply not suitable in size or parking potential.

The long term possibility of a single place of worship for United Church people in Guelph was floated during these discussions (and as part of the proposal) to be at the same location as the new head office.

The proposal met with an approving reception, but in the end, it finished second. It seemed that moving out of Toronto was not a good option, and a new location within that city was chosen.

We found out subsequently, that Lakeside Church had been considering a move like this for some time, but their offer to buy Norfolk's aging but solid building came to us out of the blue. They were led to us as a target purchase because of the location and because of conversations in the community, in particular where members of both churches worked at the same location.

Lakeside wanted to have a downtown location to expand their community services program into that area, and they also wanted, in the long term, to use the sanctuary for regular services. Apparently, some of their very active congregation members were interested in worshipping in more traditional style at a more traditional church setting.

To Norfolk, this was the best of both worlds. We knew that we were close to the point of no return, and now we had a motivated buyer for the property who would relieve us from the responsibility to maintain the big old building. In addition, and even more importantly, they would continue to use the sanctuary for worship and continue the community service thrust that we had started but could not continue. How could it get any better?

*We will be continuing the story of Guelph United Ministries in a future Trinity Voices.*

*Before Jesus, there was Joseph...*

## *Joseph in Concert*



*Coming to Trinity in April ... Watch for details*



*We are pleased to welcome through the waters of baptism:  
Zoe Paige Seguin, daughter of Jonathan & Deborah  
October 22, 2017*



**824-4800—HELP**

**PIE MAKERS** - We welcome experienced and inexperienced pie makers. Dates as follows:

Feb. 5, 10:30 am - Pastry

Feb. 6, 9:00 am - Chicken

Feb. 26, 9 am - Beef

Feb. 27, 10:15 am - Shepherds pie

**READERS, GREETERS & USHERS** -

Sign up on the bulletin board outside of Rev. John's office.

**CONTACT PLACE VOLUNTEER** one Friday/month. Contact Beth Harris at [bethharris1950@gmail.com](mailto:bethharris1950@gmail.com) or 519-827-7930.

**SUMMER STUDENT** to assist with summer camps. Email resume to [mandp@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:mandp@trinityunitedguelph.ca).

**SUNDAY MORNING AV**

**OPERATORS NEEDED**—Do you have basic computer skills? Would like to join our AV team to operate the slide projector on Sunday mornings or for special events? Contact Chris Arthey at [carth48@gmail.com](mailto:carth48@gmail.com).

**NEWSLETTER FOLDERS** - Would you be willing to fold and stuff the newsletters? Please contact the Church Office at 519-824-4800 Ext 1 or [info@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:info@trinityunitedguelph.ca).

Some of our great volunteers at Trinity's Holly Fair Bazaar  
Saturday, November 4

### Enjoy Crafting?

Our crafters are busy year round preparing for Holly Fair.

The Trinity Crafts table is looking forward to another successful day! We are planning some craft days over the next few months. We know you are creative and can really add to our items. Come out and work together on some unique projects! Your ideas are welcomed!

Please contact Carol Promfret at [519-766-9396](tel:519-766-9396) or Dorothy Bitker at [519-824-4231](tel:519-824-4231), by the end of January. They are happy to co-ordinate the days and the plans!



### Community Children's Choir

Starts Sunday, April 22, at 11:30 a.m. Free!



### PHOTOS

From time to time we will be taking photos of Trinity events and groups. If you do not want your photo to be included in Trinity publications or media, please advise us by emailing [info@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:info@trinityunitedguelph.ca).



### Guelph United Performers Summer Theatre Camp Dates

July 9 to 13 & July 23 to 27, 2018.

Camp Fee - \$55/week

Morning Camp, 9– 12 noon, 6 to 10 yrs.

Afternoon Camp, 1– 4 p.m, 11-16 yrs.

For more information, visit <http://guelphunitedperformers.com/>



RETURNING TO TRINITY  
SUMMER 2018...

STEM Camp mission is to inspire youth through participating in hands-on activities in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Our philosophy is that children learn while they have fun and if they have fun while learning we have a chance to bridge the gap between students and the real world. Through summer camp educational experiences, we prepare them for a world where most of the employment will be in STEM-related career opportunities. Eight weeks of STEM Camp to be offered at Trinity this summer.

To register, visit <https://stemcamp.ca/locations/k-w-region/guelph-summer-camp-registration/>

## Guelph United Trustees Meeting

In preparation for a meeting of the Trustees from the four United Churches in Guelph, John Bye, Ken Chupa, Sharon Huska, and Rev. Gaylyn filled in a survey. Our input was then shared with the other churches to help us get to know each other better.

We provided statistics, such as the size of the congregation and average number of attendees on Sunday, number of children and youth, number of staff, size of choir, and financial info (annual budget, key sources of revenue, and amount of endowments and legacies).

The final three questions were the most interesting to ponder:

- What we do well
- What we could do better
- What we aren't doing at all



This introspective exercise was helpful and enlightening. Knowing that our answers would be shared with the other three United Churches was a little unnerving. As we worked through the survey, we realized that Trinity has an impressive story to tell, but also that there are areas that need improvement.


Trinity's strengths and weaknesses:

- Our outreach programs are a testament to our compassion and generosity. We have a long list of programs that are offered to the community: Community Children's Choir and Theatre Club, Vacation Bible School, Sunshine Club, badminton, volleyball, and pickleball. Our social services include: Contact Place, Gifts to Give, North End Harvest Market, Chalmers Christmas gift bags, and the Backpack program. Finally we contribute financially to Mission and Service (\$43,454 in 2017), UCC Emergency Response Appeals, Chalmers Community Services Centre, and the Ecumenical Campus Ministry.
- Our building is a valuable community resource, with about 20 groups using the facility each month: Gingerbread House Preschool, clients of Dunara Homes living in the manse, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Royal City Men's Club, Royal City Lions Club, Optimist Club of Guelph, YMCA Camp Conestoga Extended Care, Third Age Learning summer lectures, and STEM camps.
- We struggle with succession planning and adding to our volunteer base. There is a need to establish fixed terms of office which would allow volunteers to take a break. The vice-chair position is vacant, and there is no one ready to step into the position of chair of council.
- We were challenged to answer the question of what we aren't doing at all. It is not something that we spend a lot of time thinking about, and it requires a clear understanding of our purpose.

At the meeting, which took place on January 12<sup>th</sup>, the chairs of the Trustees and council from each church were given 15 minutes to talk about their survey input. Not surprisingly, each church is different, with unique purpose and mission. But budget deficits and finding volunteers are common concerns.

The completed surveys for all four United Churches are available in the church office.

# Guelph United ministries

<p><b>Dublin Street United</b>  <a href="http://www.guelphunited.org/dublin/">www.guelphunited.org/dublin/</a></p>	<p><b>Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM)</b></p> <p>CAMPUS CHURCH - ECM is hosting a new worship gathering Sunday afternoons at the University of Guelph. Students and non-students alike, are welcome to participate, and we even have a modest kids program for anyone wishing to bring children. Campus Church happens on the 4th floor of the University Centre, from 4-4:45pm, and features singing, a light liturgy, and guest speakers from on and off campus. Weekend parking is free at UoG, and the University Centre is in the heart of campus. Once inside, take the North elevators beside Starbucks up to the 4th floor. The community is informal, super laid back, and strives to represent the Anglican, Presbyterian, and United Church tradition in a space full of young people. Come be part of this burgeoning community.</p> <p>CHRISTIAN CONVERSATIONS - ECM's weekly small group meets on Wednesday evenings, 7pm to 8:15pm, in Raithby House 206 at the UoG. Students and non-students are welcome.</p> <p>MATTERS OF FAITH - Mon. Feb. 12 and Mon. Mar. 19, 7pm to 8pm. The Ecumenical Campus Ministry hosts a monthly conversation, highlighting local people of faith as they live out their Christian vocation in their field. This year, we are highlighting UoG faculty members. Come hear how various Christian professors live out their faith in the field of academics and research. We meet in the Brass Taps (Keg Lounge), which is located on the 2nd floor of the University Centre at UoG.</p>
<p><b>Harcourt Memorial United</b>  <a href="http://www.guelphunited.org/harcourt/">www.guelphunited.org/harcourt/</a></p>	
<p><b>Three Willows United</b>  <a href="http://www.guelphunited.org/three-willows/">www.guelphunited.org/three-willows/</a></p> <p><b>Noon Hour Concert Series</b>          2nd Tues of month.          Light Lunch available.          Concert cost—donation          Doors open at 11:30 am.</p> <p>Feb 13, Bob Mino, Fair Wind, Celtic Music          Mar 13, Bryan McGee, local singer/songwriter          Apr 10, Graham &amp; Bowie, Soft Rock          May 8, Dale Bonnet—jazz/classical</p>	
<p><b>Chalmers Community Services</b>  <a href="http://chalmerscentre.ca/">http://chalmerscentre.ca/</a></p> <p>Chalmers Downtown:          Friday—10-12 noon          Wednesday—7-8 pm</p> <p>Chalmers West:          Thursday—10-12noon</p>	<p><i>Trinity United          a proud member of</i></p>  <p><b>Guelph United ministries</b></p> <p><i>Working together, in faith and in action</i></p>



# Ladies' Dinner Out

DATE: Tuesday, February 6  
TIME: 6 pm  
LOCATION: Fat Duck  
210 Kortright Rd W, Guelph  
*Sign up on the bulletin board by Feb 5*



DATE: Saturday, February 3  
TIME: 9:00 am  
LOCATION: Angel's Diner  
23 Wellington St E, Guelph  
*Sign up on the bulletin board by Feb 1*

## Calendar of Events

- Feb 3 Men's Breakfast
- Feb 5/6 Meatpie Making
- Feb 6 Ladies Dinner Out
- Feb 9 Optimist Club Roast Beef Dinner
- Feb 13/27 Meditation
- Feb 13 Girl Guide Pancake Supper
- Feb 18 Communion
- Feb 25 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Feb 26/27 Meatpie Making
- Mar 2 Theatre Production
- Mar 4 Trinity Voices Submission Deadline
- Mar 9 Optimist Club Roast Beef Dinner
- Mar 12-16 VBS March Break Camp
- Mar 13/27 Meditation
- Mar 22 NEHM Quarter Auction
- Mar 25 Palm Sunday, Communion
- Mar 31 Optimist Club Breakfast  
with Easter Bunny
- Apr 1 Easter Sunday
- Apr 10/24 Meditation
- Apr 13/14 Trinity Garage Sale
- Apr 26 Spring Chicken Lunch
- Apr 28/29 GUM Weekend Event
- Apr 29 Tri City Gospel Chorus

All the Trinity email addresses are  
@trinityunitedguelph.ca, e.g. [in-fo@trinityunitedguelph.ca](mailto:info@trinityunitedguelph.ca)

### Staff

- rev.john
- rev.gaylyn
- heather
- sharon
- andrea

### Office

- info (to Sharon)
- office (to Heather)
- childrensprogram

### Committees

- council (to the Chairperson)
- finance, treasurer
- m&p
- property
- accessibility
- avbooth
- webmaster

MINISTERS: Rev. John Benham, Rev. Gaylyn McLean,

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Andrea LeBlanc

CHURCH OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR: Sharon Huska , BOOKKEEPER: Heather Husnik-Osborne

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