

CHURCH COUNCIL E-NEWS

Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church

Greetings from Church Council!

In an effort to enhance communication, Council will provide monthly electronic news and Committee updates. We appreciate your feedback!

IIMTT (Intentional Interim Ministry Transition Team)

- IIMTT has met twice this fall, September 23 and November 16. Between those two dates the Transition Team has been involved in three activities.
- In conjunction with the C.E. Committee it hosted an after-worship consultation of children and youth, their parents and/or grandparents, and the C.E. Committee to talk about programming for children and youth – What do we expect of each other? What are the limitations of our context? (*see C.E. below*).
- In conjunction with the Worship Committee supported an exploration of Styles of Spirituality over two Sundays – November 15 and 22. (*see Worship below*).
- Conducted an after-worship workshop on Behavioural Covenants on Sunday, November 8. As part of that workshop table groups reflected on and responded to their experiences of 5 Areas of Congregational Life:

Decision making – Who is involved? How are decisions made/communicated?

Information sharing – How wide is the circle? Who is left out?

Conflict – What is our attitude about conflict? What do we expect of our clergy leader when conflict occurs?

Complaints – What is the process for airing complaints/concerns? Who hears them?

Leadership – Who is recognized as a leader? How are leaders chosen? What role do they play?

Table groups also considered current TSSUC practices and patterns to keep and current practices and patterns to break or let go.

Responses have been tabulated and these will be available in hard copy Sunday mornings in the sanctuary; week days in the office; posted to the web site.

The Transition Team meets next on Monday, January 11, 2016.

Property/Board of Trustees

- Removal of the damaged Ratchford St. doors and construction of the new entry is complete. Total cost was in excess of \$44,000. Insurance payments covered the entire cost. Thanks to Bert Seeley and the Property Committee and their contributions to the early stages of the door replacement. Thanks to Harold Farrow for bringing this project to a successful conclusion. Thanks are also due to Harold with respect to the next two projects.
- Exterior electrical outlets are to be installed on the Ratchford St. side of the building.
- The parking lot door providing access to the kitchen now has a door bell. The new roof will be installed next spring when temperatures will be high enough to ensure good adhesion and sealing.
- Meanwhile, the buttress over the parking lot door has been removed as it retained water causing it to back up under the shingles resulting in leaks in several spots. Temporary repairs to this area of the roof have been made.
- Trustees met last on Wednesday, November 18.
- Trustees meet next on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

Stewardship

- Our thanks to those who contributed through the Anniversary envelopes.

UCW

- UCW members are excited to be working at two booths at the upcoming Bethlehem Market again, and would be so glad to receive your items for our sale tables. Deborah's Deals... Women's Accessories (jewelry, scarves, gloves, hats, handbags and belts) and goodies for our bake table.
- Tuesday, December 1 is the UCW shared meal celebration evening with the women of the congregation, starting at 6 pm, a time to return your 'wee stocking' to hang on our tree. Extra stockings and envelopes available at the church office.
- A big thank you to all who helped with the annual turkey dinner, and although numbers were down some, we are happy to announce we cleared just over \$4,000.
- UCW is no longer collecting used eyeglasses; this project has been discontinued.

Worship

- The committee met on Thursday, November 12.
- We are in the midst of tabulating the returns from the Spirituality Types forms. These will be communicated shortly.
- The marriage of Krista Rector and Andrew Gilroy took place on Saturday, Nov. 14.
- In light of changing demographics, changing societal practices, and in consultation with the C.E. Committee, we are planning to have only one service on Christmas Eve. Our aim is to combine the joy of the traditional 7:00 service with the reflective qualities of the

9:00 Communion service. A fuller description of the service will be included in the Christmas Letter. Christmas Eve worship will take place at 7:00 pm.

Chignecto Presbytery

- Presbytery met at St. Paul's in Riverview on Wednesday, November 18.
- The 2016 Presbytery Budget was presented and adopted.
- Presbytery covenanted with Rev. Janice MacLean and her online ministry called the Prayer Bench. This web site offers daily reflections, seasonal retreats and other programs all online. The Prayer Bench can be accessed at <http://prayerbench.ca/>.
- Our Presbytery reps are Judy Jonah and Ron Patterson.

Christian Education

- Sunday school is being held every second week in November, with the next class being held on Sunday, November 22. Our Sunday school leaders this year are Dodi Dickinson and Wanda Bickle and we are using the "Godly Play" method of presenting our faith stories. A designated Sunday school room has been established upstairs in Burgess Hall and we are working to equip the space with lesson materials. The date for Sunday school in December is December 13.
- During the Bethlehem Market, the Christian Education Committee will host a new book sale with materials from the United Church Resource Distribution Center. These items will also be available after church on November 29th.
- The White Gift service will be held on December 6 and there will be special music during the service on December 20.
- Christmas Eve Service: See Worship news, above.

Fundraising

- Our annual Bethlehem Market will be held on Saturday November 28 from 10 am to 1 pm. Experience costumed vendors offering their wares in a "Bethlehem Market" atmosphere. Items available include, baking, preserves, candy and fudge, used books, jewellery and scarves, new crafts, Christmas decorations, new to you items, a Silent Auction and the Christian Education Committee will host a new book sale for the United Church Resource Distribution Center. You can have your picture taken in the live nativity scene for \$3.00. Turkey soup and biscuits are available for lunch at a cost of \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children.

Choir, TYS, Music at Trinity

- Thanks to Stan Williams and John Covert who installed quarter-round in the choir room.
- Both the choir and TYS are busy preparing for the Advent Lessons and Carols, 7:00 pm Sunday, December 13.
- Thank you to all who supported the very enjoyable performance of Allison Angelo, soprano, accompanied by Simon Docking, on Sunday, November 15.

Visitation Team

- A new visitation tracking system is in place.
- Our congregation is responsible for services on Wednesday, November 25, at Victoria Manor (10:30) and Northumberland Hall (11:00).