

THE WAITING...IT'S THE HARDEST PART

Waiting is tough. I don't know anyone who really likes, I mean deeply appreciates, waiting. We tell ourselves that waiting is good. Waiting helps us appreciate what arrives. Waiting helps us become mature in our person, in our faith, in our relationships. All of which is true, yet that doesn't make it easy.

Tom Petty once sang, "the waiting is the hardest part. Every day you see one more card. You take it on faith, you take it to the heart. The waiting is the hardest part." I think there's a deep truth in those phrases. Certainly, it's a truth echoed in the psalms. Over and over the writers acknowledge how our souls wait for God. Waiting is part of the gospel story. Again, and again the apostles are waiting, or the crowd is waiting, or we are waiting. Waiting it seems is part of life, yet that doesn't make it easy. It might just make it the hardest part.

We find ourselves waiting to see if people will respond to our text messages, phone calls, and emails. We count the minutes as we wait to hear about employment, health, relationships, friends, and family. We cling to the edge of our seats waiting to see how the movie turns out, our book ends, where the river stop rising, how dry it will be this summer, or when spring will finally arrive. It seems like life, to borrow a phrase, is all about 'hurry up! and wait.'

This seems to be so much a part of the Christian story. Think about Good Friday for a minute. For the disciples, it's been constant movement from one place to another. Following Jesus and waiting for the next miraculous event and then it all comes to a crashing end. On Good Friday, it's all over. No more Messiah. No more potential revolution. No more miracles. What happens next is a period of intense waiting. Not like the waiting I talked about above. This isn't like waiting to see if your favourite rink will win or if your child will get an A or a B on that last assignment. This is liminal waiting. This is an experience of the between space of the almost, yet not yet. And what happens, it would appear, almost right away? The disciples forget. They forget that Jesus said this would happen. They forget the vision he cast of what would come next. They forget that times such as these are ripe for God's indwelling amongst us in ways that shatter previous perceptions of reality and transform people and communities into a closer approximation of God's commonwealth in our midst.

The disciples' forgetfulness might seem very comforting to us, because it's so human. When the challenges come our way, when we're faced with adversity, uncertainty, and indecision. When the way forward is clouded and foggy and we can barely see where to put our feet next, the temptation is to forget the vision. The temptation is to ask, 'why'd we start this journey in the first place?!' The temptation is to lose faith in the teachings of the one we seek to follow.

Growing up my Dad used to say, "you can't get to Easter without going through Good Friday." It was a constant reminder of how the Christian story is our daily life story. It was a constant reminder that the very thing that can change the world often seems beyond our grasp. It was a constant reminder that sometimes the thing we want most in the world means we must wait. It was a constant reminder that what God is doing is usually in the most unlikely places. It was a constant reminder that to get to the celebration of Easter there will always be a time of doubt, of regret, of grief, of anxiety, of impatience. Why? Because the gospel story is an everyday lived experience of death and life. You simply can't have one without the other.

Communities go through the same process. There's the big moment of celebration, the equivalent to the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. There's the sense that we've finally arrived and then reality sets in. There's still so much work to be done. So many details to work out, relationships to maintain, personalities to assuage, meetings to attend, and newness to embrace that it can feel more like the void of Holy Saturday. That's part of the process. That's part of the story. That's part of the crucible of a community defining who and whose it is. It is only with those experiences that the glory of Easter can be proclaimed with the loudest shouts of Alleluia!

This Holy Week and Easter season don't be afraid of the challenges before you, before us. Don't run away and hide behind a locked door. Instead, be on the lookout for the new and wonderful thing that God, through Christ, is doing in our midst. Instead, wait and point towards the energy that is contained within our community. Instead, acknowledge the liminal experience and risk putting your best foot forward as we step out in faith together. After all, we are an Easter people! A resurrection people!

Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier

MARCH 25 – 10 am Palm Sunday Service
Bake Sale by Donation after worship
MARCH 30 – 10:30 am – Good Friday Service
APRIL 1 – 10 am - Easter Sunday Service
Brunch by Donation after worship
APRIL 22 – Silent Auction after worship

OFFICIAL BOARD

*“Prayer in action is love,
Love in action is service.”*

Mother Teresa

What a busy three months it has been at Trinity United. We have certainly been a group of people who have been coming together through our actions. We have had a chance to get to know new people and to discover their talents and their personal challenges. We have shared meals at the Soup and Sandwich lunches. We have given faithful service at the Soup Kitchen at St. Vincent's de Paul. We have increased our donations of non-perishable food items to the Activity Centre for Empowerment (A.C.E.). We have hosted the Golden Age Tea at the Civic Centre with close to 300 attending. We have shared in worship and in the sacraments. We have laughed and we have cried. We have come together in service and with love.

Thank you to the many people who have taken on a role with Trinity United. Some may be members of the Official Board, team leaders or committee chairs. Some may be on committees or teams. It never ceases to amaze me how so many people just do a job because they see it needs to be done. Shovelling, bussing tables, bringing extra chairs for the overflow crowd at a funeral, straightening the rows in the sanctuary, decorating the hall and updating bulletin boards are some of the jobs that just get done.

The Kids' Boxes are a new initiative that the children seem to enjoy. There is now a decal on the door which states "Naturally, you can breastfeed here." We will be hearing more about the Pastoral Care Team, the KAIROS Blanket Exercise Team, and Healing Pathways in newsletters and in Trinity Talks after Easter.

Thank you to all of you for being a part of Trinity United Church. We are the church.

Judy Addie

Board Chair

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ministry and Personnel Committee thanks all those who have volunteered to fill committee and team positions for the year of 2018 ...” Many hands make light work! “ Thanks too, to all members of our paid staff who is adjusting to slightly altered roles of service with cheerful service. We also acknowledge that Rev Bob is busy behind the scenes tying up many loose ends to complete the amalgamation process. Unknown to us many details continue to crop up to take his time and energy beyond his work hours. We thank him for doing all this while continuing to guide and support us in our spiritual journeys.

All contribute to the vision and mission of Trinity United Church of living faith, inclusive fellowship and joyful service. We think that the ministry of Trinity United is full of enthusiasm, passion and faithfulness.

We announce that Rebecca Fillier is the successful applicant for the Digital Ministry Position which includes the AV and live streaming to connect north. She started her paid position on March 1st. This position includes the supervision of a team of people to assist with the audio-video part of our Sunday worship service. Rebecca will need time off from time to time. Thus, she will be looking to recruit those that may be interested in assisting her. If this is an interest of yours feel free to let Rebecca know. **We thank** Rebecca for her several months of faithful volunteer service in this position since the fall of 2017.

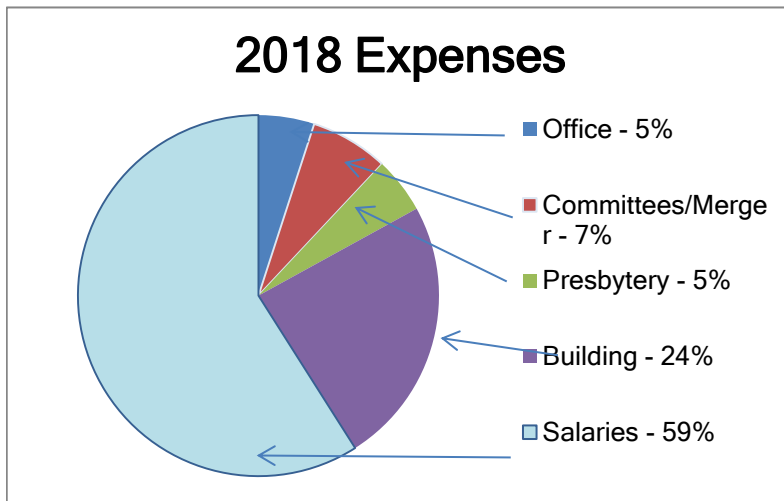
In ministry together, we are always available to hear your concerns in confidentiality. Our members include, Marilyn Blair, Les Waldie, Vicki Brown, Em Cawsey, Megan Homan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the Trinity United Church first annual congregational meeting held on February 18, 2018, the operating budget for 2018 was approved.

The Revenue budget includes \$157,300 from regular offerings, \$60,000 from rent, and \$20,000 from other revenue. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for their support of Other Revenue from the fundraising done through muffin sales and the silent auctions held each year. Soup and sandwich lunches and the church dinners are also included in other revenue. Other ideas for fundraising are also welcome.

Total revenue, not including Mission and Service offerings, is \$243,000 and it covers the commitments made by the congregation for:



After some discussion the congregation approved a \$20,000 target for the Mission and Service Fund for 2018.

Summary financial information for the first two months of our 2018 fiscal year is presented below. Our expenses have exceeded our revenue for this two month period. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor our revenue and expenses throughout our first year as Trinity United Church. Please watch the bulletin for monthly updates of this information.

Actual for January and February (2 months)

Revenue	\$40,108
Expenses	48,853
Excess Expenses	<u>\$8,745</u>

If you have any questions about the church's financial position please contact any member of the Finance Committee or me.

Thanks to Trish Appleton for her assistance to the Finance Committee and taking on the responsibilities of the church's Bookkeeper. The Finance Committee – Nancy Buchanan, Katherine Cruwys, Johanna Jenkins, Elizabeth MacRitchie, Jim Reid, and I wish you a Happy Easter.

Allan Reed, Treasurer

SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Spiritual accompaniment is an ancient practice that is often described as spiritual direction. This soul deepening practice offers one the opportunity to explore the mystery we call God in all the areas of our daily life. I am completing a two year Soul Guiding program offered by Pacific Jubilee and would like to share my experience with others. If you are curious about spiritual direction, spiritual accompaniment please do contact me. I'd welcome the opportunity to share my experience with diving deeper into this life we are all living. Barb Dean, barbdean@shaw.ca, 250-563-2746.

NARAMATA CENTRE is a United Church treasure. Located in the Okanagan it offers family friendly programs that support our spiritual growth. There are a number of programs that are available this summer. Check out my friend and spiritual companion Julie Eliot's offering in the week of July 14 to 21st. If you are curious about Naramata offerings please do contact Barb Dean, barbdean@shaw.ca Check the following link and explore further. Naramata has changed my life and deepened my faith. I highly recommend it: <https://www.naramatacentresociety.org/summer-2018#/event/324/summer-week-3-july-14-21>

HEALING PATHWAY WORKSHOP

Phase 1
Introduction to the
Healing Pathway

**May 4-6,
2018**

For more information call
Tom Hynd 250-563-6188

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has been busy the past few months with a few people changing paths. Barb Dean asked to step down from the chair, but thankfully has agreed to remain on the committee. Betty Belado, Maria Brouwer and Holly Lee looked for new challenges so have joined other groups. We will truly miss each one of them, and thank them for all their hard work over the past years. Pam Boulding has graciously agreed to do the phoning to organize Worship Assistants for Sunday services. So if you hear a new friendly voice on the phone asking for your help, it will now be Pam vs Holly. And a huge thank-you to Cowboy Bob for volunteering as a greeter for every Sunday. His is the smiling face and cheery hello at the main door every week. Thank-you for all the other people that have volunteered to act as greeters at the parking lot entrance. Your dedication is so appreciated. We invite everyone interested in a Sunday a month, one a quarter or one Sunday a year to put their name on the sign up sheet at the front door. It's a great way to get to say hello and meet new people every week. If you have any comments or suggests relative to service, please contact/speak to any one of the committee. We always welcome your feedback.

Marion Bartlett
Worship, Chair

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

As always, we have been busy with our regular activities over the winter. Coffee, tea, juice and a light snack are served weekly. We have held two muffin sales and as I write this we are planning our first Bake Sale for Palm Sunday.

On February 14, we were pleased to host over 250 seniors at the Golden Age Social at the Civic Centre. Entertainment was provided by some of Lori Elder's piano students and by the Northern Twisters square dancers. There was a lot of good food served and we encouraged our guests to take home leftovers. Tea and coffee were served from silver tea services (and regular Thermoses). It was an uplifting afternoon, and we are certain our guests enjoyed themselves.

We also served at the memorial tea for Irene Rigler, a beloved long-time member of our family. We are always honoured to be able to do this.

Plans are also underway for the **Spring Silent Auction on April 22nd**. Donations of new or handmade items are welcome, we will have donation slips available in the next week or so. Donations of services are also appreciated. Do you love to garden? Would you like to offer your services for planting, weeding, harvesting? That is only one suggestion. Put on your thinking caps! Plan on joining us after the service on **April 22 for strawberry shortcake (\$2 per serving)** and bidding on the items laid out in the hall.

We are always open to new members, if you think you are interested, see any member of the Fellowship Committee. You can often find us in the kitchen.

Wishing you all the blessings of Easter,

Judy Wilson
Secretary, Fellowship Committee

WONDERHOSTS We use this terms for the folks at the doors with the bright blue name tags. These are people who are a bit more comfortable talking with newcomers - sharing information to help them feel welcome, and asking a few questions to get to know them. We can give anyone a tour of the building if they wish, or grab a Kleenex or cough candy from our Blue Boxes.

THE PROBLEM The combination of the Merger and maybe the social media presence means there are many people we don't recognize. This is exciting....but we want all to feel welcome.

THE SOLUTION This already happens to a degree but lets bump it up a notch. Each of you can be a Wonderhost - invite someone beside you for coffee or lunch. If you are not comfortable reaching out to those you think might be new, then point the people out to us. And, we would love to have a few more folks on our team so we can be sure to have someone at each door every Sunday.

Beth Quesnel - Team Leader