

TUC SUMMER 2019

What Are You Doing This Summer?

There's something about the arrival of summer that makes me reflective. It might be that I spend more time outside sitting in the backyard listening to the birds and the sound of water moving over the rocks in our pond. It might also be that one of the questions almost everyone asks this time of year is, "what are you doing this summer?" I've always felt like there's a bit of an expectation associated with this question, that somehow "more of the same" isn't quite what people are expecting, yet the premise, "what are you doing?" is actually very helpful.

In the rhythm I have for ministry, summer is always a time to look at what I've been doing, what I am doing, and what I'd like to be doing. The summer 'break' is quite helpful in this way if you can manage to take some time to be open and listen to the Spirit amidst all the weed pulling, lawn cutting, trips, hikes, walks, rides, and BBQing. What are you (what am I) doing?



Some of you know that Rev. Victoria and I attended the inhabit conference again this year. It's presented by a group known as the Parrish Collective, who ask a very simple, yet complex question: "how are you inhabiting the place where God has called you to do ministry?" It's their version of "what are you doing..." in your parish, your ministry, your city. It's a big question and the answer, if I'm honest, is one I want to get right. That's part of the challenge hidden within the question, especially in a world that says 'more' is always the right answer, yet what if the answer isn't about doing 'more' so much as being clear about purpose and desired impact? What if, as Albert Schweitzer says, "the purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others?" How then would I answer the question?



Understanding the question really is very important because it shapes the answer. Even Jesus clarifies questions he's asked because the answers are shaped by them. John Lennon put it this way, "When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school they asked me what I want to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment. I told them they didn't understand life." Being clear about the assignment, the question, is very important, especially when its deceptively easy to answer. That's one of the reasons I appreciate this question and the time to ponder it.

In the Interim Ministry course they teach you that one of the things you need in ministry is a 10,000 foot view, a 'balcony view' so that you can see all the pieces of the system and how it is working. The big picture is something I'm constantly trying to discern. I want to sharpen its resolution so it's easier to see and not miss anything. After three summers in Prince George, I think it's starting to take shape. The synergy created by Trinity United is shifting our behaviour in very helpful ways. We're starting to move away from charity and towards mutuality and partnership. We're asking questions about how we embody Trinity United in PG and within our region. We've taken the bold step of starting the Affirming Ministry process. We've maintained our commitment to ministry downtown and have started to create a viable picture of what that might look like. We've created a 12-month Christian Education plan – parts of which are Camp Spirit (www.campspirit.ca), a summer study group, and



offering Trinity Kids throughout the summer. The Men's Breakfast group got together for an outreach project with Phoenix House. The Land Lease with BCHC, Phoenix Transition Society, and Harmony House continues to move forward. We're planning Christmas and Easter Cantatas. Plans are taking shape for a 110 year Anniversary Celebration in June 2020 at Trinity Downtown. Our Board demonstrated their support for Ladner United Church after their rainbow flag was vandalized twice in one month. Maria, Gerry, and Rebecca attended the first meeting of Pacific Mountain Regional Council as voting delegates from Trinity United Church. We've taken our worship outside and celebrate the wisdom that is present with us in all of creation.

As I reflect on who we continue to become and the identity we are forging as Trinity United I am reminded of Jesus direction to those who would follow him: go and make disciples. I take that to mean go and be followers of Jesus in word and action; go and invite others to join you on the journey; go and be fully present in your community; go and make a difference in people's lives; go and speak out for justice and against oppression; go and feed people; go and be the voice of those who are voiceless; go and build affirming inclusive community; go and show what it means to have a living faith; go and engage in joyful service.



What are we doing? We're making a difference one act of gospel living at a time. That's what we're doing. That's Trinity United Church and I'm so thankful to be in ministry with all of you as we continue to build upon our rich heritage, dream about what the church could be, and find ways of making a difference in our community and the world.

So, what are you doing this summer?

Rev. Bob

Message from the Official Board

*Believe that there is Good in the world
Be the Good*

Greetings from the Official Board of Trinity United. We hope that you will take time to rest and re-create over the summer.

We have had a busy winter and spring with planning for the Land Lease Proposal being the major focus. We appreciate that members of the congregation supported this proposal by voting 89% in favour of moving forward. There are still steps to be taken which include a final review of the lease by the lawyer and the Board. Then the agreement will go to the Trustees and to the Pacific Region Conference of the United Church for their approval. Thank you to the many people who offered input, asked questions and shared their concerns. Special thanks to Rev. Bob for keeping us up to date with the Q and A information.



The Board decided on three goals for 2019. Various groups, committees and teams are moving forward with looking at the steps to becoming an Affirming Ministry, providing opportunities for Christian Education for all ages on a year long basis, and for working on a leadership plan to involve a smooth transition within the Board and with committee leaders.

We are very appreciative of the work of the committees and teams as well as the staff. The Board looks at the big picture items; the committees, teams and staff cover the day to day operations.

Thank you to Bill Hudyma, Tom Hynd and the Property Committee for the painting, floor waxing and other summer tasks which help spruce up our buildings.

Thank you also to Marion Bartlett and the Worship Committee for providing coverage while Rev. Bob is on vacation. Worship leaders, Worship Assistants, and projectionists are being recruited.

The quote that I used to open this message is especially important at this time with so many difficulties and challenges in the world. We continue to believe that there is good in the world. "We are the good" with our many Outreach activities such as Soup Kitchen, the A.C.E. and In-Deo collection of food and toiletry items, and the welcome that we give to visitors and user groups. We are fulfilling our three core values of living faith, inclusive fellowship and joyful service.

Judy Addie
Board Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Summer weather is eagerly anticipated by all of us who live in the north. Often church programs slow down as people enjoy the outdoor activities. Although this is true of some of our committee meetings and study groups, Trinity Church has many programs that continue throughout the summer. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm that is evident in our church life.

As one of the duties of the M & P committee is to supervise and support our paid staff, we are happy to host a staff appreciation dinner in June. We like to take time to let our staff know that we all appreciate their dedication and their contributions to the life of Trinity United Church. We hope that all members take time to thank our paid staff from time to time.

If you have any concerns about the ministry of TUC please feel free to contact any member of our committee.

Marilyn Blair, Megan Homan, Les Waldie, Keith Taite, Shannon Carson, Vicki Brown.

In Deo

Last year I had the honour of continuing the Jack Frost program that originated at Knox United Church. It was my observation, when these donated items were delivered to the various groups partnered with, that many (many) other groups were motivated at that time of year to donate similar items. As a matter of fact it was overwhelming for me to realize just how much, which was heartwarming, yet it did glaringly say, "what about the rest of the year?"



This brings me to what I have learned having met with the organization leaders and seeing them as partners in ministry. They showed me that there is a real need, every single day, not just at Christmas and the need is for the simplest of things, not toys and gifts. With that in mind, my goal is to redirect our efforts from once a year, to all year long. Everyday items such as toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, personal hygiene products just to mention a few.

We are called to be the church. This might just be a way that we can be just that, the church. Under the umbrella of both Outreach and Fellowship, I'm asking that we all take a peek at our own lives, and see what we might be able to do.

As we venture into the summer season, perhaps we can continue in the spirit of Pentecost, by listening to the needs our partner groups are identifying and sharing some of our abundance however we can.

There will be lists at both entrances of items needed, with more detailed particulars than will fit into this note. No panic, no rush, no time frame, just do what you can, whenever you can, all the time. That is all we can hope for.

Oh, and one more thing, as Bob mentioned we should perhaps re-brand the effort, as Jack Frost does conjure up thoughts of winter. I have chosen to call it the '**In Deo**' project. **In Deo** means "**with God**" Latin.

I look forward to your support, if anyone has any questions or would like further details please feel free to contact me at 250-963-8374, or speak to me any Sunday after church.

Be kind to one another,
Gabriele

DO YOU TRAVEL? Did you know the hotel toiletry products are the ideal size for our toiletry bags? If you're able to collect them and bring them home, please drop them off at the office and the In-Deo program will distribute them to people who can use them.



Ministry and Personnel Committee



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Marilyn Blair, Megan Homan, Les Waldie, Keith Taite, Shannon Carson, Vicki Brown.

Property Committee



It has been a busy time for the property committee and I would like to recognize a few people who have been an extremely important part of keeping Trinity looking so good.

John Warner, who has refinished the baptism font and removed the letters from the front of the building. John had to remove the letters, patch the holes and paint the wall. Looks awesome.

Bill Drake who is our wonder electrician who keeps us with power when our breakers keep going.

We are now into painting the hallways. Time for a little updating.

A big thank you to Tom Hynd who has hooked us up with a parking lot cleaning crew that didn't break the bank account. It is so nice not to track in all the sand and gravel into the church. He will also be stripping the floor in the sanctuary and waxing it.

Thank you to Megan and Don Homan for keeping our lawn and flower beds looking great.

I would like to thank Gary Dean for the new addition of the hand rails at the front of the church. This will be a great assist to the people with balance issues. And hidden away Gary has constructed 2 pull carts which will be used to put the hymn books on when the chairs are moved for special occasions like the dinners and spring and fall clean up.

There are numerous other people to thank but I have just picked a couple to mention.

A big shout out to all of the members of the congregation that assist me in keeping Trinity United looking welcoming.

Bill Hudyma
Property Committee

Wonderhosts

We are the team of folks who are scheduled to have one of us at each door every Sunday with a big name tag. Our goal is to make everyone feel welcome....especially visitors or newcomers. We have time for a chat, while the Greeters need to be there for each person arriving.

In summer we do not have a schedule but whoever is there will take up the role. And, as with all year round, we are thankful that everyone in our church family pays attention to others and tries to make them feel welcome.

Have a wonderful summer everyone. Beth Quesnel, Team Leader



“NETFLIX WITH HEART ♥” BY JUDY THOMAS:

Recommendations for shows about people being human. I only found a few suitable suggestions for this newsletter (partially because we got caught in Raptors fever).

The Shack: My top recommendation for this exploration of a father's anger with God upon the murder of his young daughter. The issues raised are in an absorbable story format. The dead girl's father asks God 'how can there be such pain and apparent evil if God loves us?' 'Does God forsake us?' 'How can we forgive someone who perpetrates such harm?' Also explores concepts about our 3 relationships with in the Holy Trinity and how the Trinity makes a whole God. Not preachy. The movie is based on the 20 million best selling book '*The Shack*' by William Paul Young.

The Angel: This is spy thriller about the tensions between Israel and Egypt circa 1970. It really made us think about how seldom we know the true motivations of others and of our tendency to judge based on appearances. Was the double agent behavior of the Egyptian spy and his sacrifice of his family because he was serving a greater good for both nations?

Case for Christ: This is the story of an atheist who analytically examines the facts around the resurrection of Jesus. His premise is that if Jesus was truly resurrected, then Jesus was the Son of God and therefore God is real. Not cheesy or preachy.

Brooklyn 99: A series of adventures / misadventures of a police precinct. Mostly harmless fluff, but goofy and funny.

Father Brown: A gentle 'who done it' murder series from rural 1950s England. Father Brown, who solves the mysteries, focuses of the moral side of the crime.

Christian Education Committee

PENTECOST BOOK STUDY: FALLING UPWARD BY RICHARD ROHR

A five-week book study focusing on "a spirituality for the two halves of life" will be held over 5 weeks this summer. Running every Wednesday morning between July 17th and August 14th from 9:30-11:00, we will explore the content of Rohr's book within the context of the blossoming first year of our lives as "Trinity United". Please email (kmitchellfoster@gmail.com) or text (250-552-9124) Kendra with interest, we will pre-order books (\$23.95) and have them available at our first meeting.

CAMP SPIRIT AUGUST 2019: Trinity will be the host for Camp Spirit from August 5th -9th this summer. We are looking for volunteers to support the UCC staff who will be facilitating the camp. We are also looking for contributions to the "sponsor a camper" fund so all who would like may attend. If you would like to volunteer and/or have a child aged 5 yrs or older who would like to attend, please contact Kendra at kmitchellfoster@gmail.com or 250-552-9124 for more information.

Outreach Committee

Summer is upon us, and with it comes summer holidays! Yes! However the need for soup and sandwiches continues through the summer. With people away on holidays we will be short staffed after church on July 14th, and especially on August 11th. We will need people to help make sandwiches, bring the soup, sandwiches, and fruit down to St. Vincent's, and help serve down at St. Vincent's. With lots of hands, it only takes 45-60 minutes after church, and an hour and a half down at St. Vincent's from 2:15 – 3:45. If you are a regular, or someone just interested in helping out a time or two in anyway, we would love to have you! Please e-mail Vickie at physiovic@yahoo.com or phone 250 964-1148. Many thanks!



As well, our annual "Welcome Back Barbecue" is tentatively set for September 15th from 11:00 – 12:30. Once again we are looking for people to assist with picking up barbecues, tent set-up, food set-up and clean up. A volunteer sheet will be posted on the bulletin board through the summer. Please leave your name and phone # under any area you are interested in helping with.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, have a safe, fun summer with your family and friends

Mission and Service Committee



Thank you for giving to Mission & Service.

Tender and caring God,
We come with grateful hearts.
We are your people,
Called to make a difference,
Called to be bearers of your light.
We are thankful, faithful followers
Who have answered
the call to be the church.
In celebration we lift up
God's blessed presence
Through gifts for Mission & Service.
Gifts that are used in partnership,
Given in solidarity and hope.
Together we are mending the world.
Heartfelt thanks

Finance Committee

Summary financial information for the first five months of our 2019 fiscal year is presented below.

	Actual for January to May 2019 (5 months)	Actual for January to May 2018 (5 months)
Revenue	\$102,905	\$108,707
Expenses	106,693	115,642
Excess Expenses	(3,787)	(6,935)
Surplus, Beginning of Period	305,814	306,456
Surplus , End of Period	\$302,027	\$299,521



Revenue and expenses are both down from the same five month period for Trinity United Church in 2018. The decrease in revenue is primarily due to lower rental and other revenue. Offerings are \$1,200 ahead of the same period in 2018. The reduction in expenses relates primarily to efficiencies over 2018 in operating one congregation with two buildings. For this period all expenses are within the budget approved by the congregation in February 2019.

Mission and Service offerings to the end of May total \$9,018 compared to \$9,187 last year.

The congregation is in a familiar position at this time of year. Based on prior years, it is expected that our expenses will continue to exceed our revenue until possibly December. Please consider your ability to assist in having revenue from offerings keep pace with our expenses throughout the year.

A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, June 9 to update the congregation on the church's financial position. At that meeting, the congregation approved a motion to approve borrowing by way of overdraft to September 30, 2019 only as required.

Before heading off for your summer vacation please remember that the church's expenses continue through July and August. If you will be away and wish to continue with your regular offerings while you are away you may leave post-dated cheques in your offering envelopes with the church office. Please also consider if PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittances) is an appropriate option for you to support the work of Trinity United Church.

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 ongoing assistance with our financial records.

The Finance Committee – Nancy Buchanan, Katherine Cruwys, Doug Hofstede, Jim Reid, and I wish you a peaceful, happy and safe summer wherever you may travel.

Allan Reed, Treasurer



Thanks to Betty Belado for hosting our annual worship and BBQ at West Lake on June 16. It was a chance to gather in fellowship and appreciate the gift of God's creation. How lucky we are to live in such a beautiful province. The weather and setting were perfect. The service and delicious food were enjoyed by all. What a wonderful way to celebrate Father's Day!



Worship Committee

It is difficult to grasp that the summer holiday months are just days away, meaning we are reaching the halfway mark for the year. So what have we, as the Worship Committee been up to the past months, and/or have planned for the coming months?

For starters, we have now held the first contemplative services planned for this year on the 5th Sunday in March. With the inclusion of a baptism during the service, the contemplative aspect was toned down a bit, but still managed to have a more quiet service and the next being Good Friday. We did have some very positive feedback, and also had some ideas and requests come forward for futures like services which are being incorporated in as best as possible. Our next contemplative service is slated for June 30, 2019, and as this is a newer concept for this church, we invite your continued feedback going forward.

We had very positive comments come forward with relation to the Easter services. Good Friday held a very contemplative feel, totally fitting the message of the day. It was a very well done, impactful and somber service. The upbeat atmosphere of Easter Sunday is quite an emotional swing from Good Friday. The Easter Egg hunt was as usual, a hit with kids and adults, and there was a vibrancy to the service, kind of a reawakening – very well accepted. Hats off to Reverend Bob for both those services.

Mother's Day service was well done, with the children passing out carnations to all the ladies present. The remaining carnations were taken to St. Vincent de Paul and handed out to the ladies there.

Another point of interest, and newly introduced is the prayer book that open beside the candle table. If you have someone or something that you wish to be included in the Pastoral Prayer, please feel free to enter it in the book prior to service, or during the passing of the Peace. Just please remember - Names should only be input if the person/people whose name is being noted have provided consent.

And a big thank-you to the people that stepped in to assist in service during Rev. Bob's and Rebecca's away times. Katherine Tuck for being the acting Worship Leader on April 7, Kendra Mitchell-Foster was Worship Leader for April 28, and on June 2, Collette Roworth took the Worship Leader position. With Rebecca also away on June 2, Dustin Hudyma and Shannon Carson managed the projection requirements. A huge thank-you to all of you for stepping forward and for jobs very well done.

The service at West Lake, hosted by Betty Belado at her wonderful spot on the lake was well attended with some 50 persons there for the service and the BBQ/potluck that followed. The service was fabulous, the music providers and choir – wonderful job, and I believe the day was well appreciated by all that came. We have already booked the day with Betty for June 14, 2020.

So – with summer right around the corner, which also means holiday time for both our minister and our projectionist, we are once again looking for volunteers to help fill the voids. Reverend Bob is away July 21, 28 and August 4, 11 & 18, so we are actively seeking Worship Leaders to help fill those slots. Reverend Bob will be on hand the early part of July, and will be completely willing to assist anyone in planning and/or fine tuning their presentation. We have had many do these fill in spots in the past, and everyone has indicated that it was a very impactful moment in their life. We sincerely hope that you may be willing to assist in some capacity.

In addition, with Rebecca on holidays from August 4th to 18th inclusive, we may need some additional people to train up to assist in that area. As some recently added equipment means that it is beneficial to have two running the equipment together, and 4 of us trained up, we definitely have room for a few more. It is not overly difficult, but you would need to allow for some time with Rebecca. If you are interested in this, we definitely welcome your assistance.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Trinity United PG has been chosen as the host church for the 2020 World Day of Prayer which will take place on Friday, March 6, 2020. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together each year on the first Friday of March to observe a common day of prayer. Each year the international group picks a country that they feel needs support, and the women in that Christian community provide a template to be used worldwide. For 2020 that country is Zimbabwe.

The Prince George World Day of Prayer committee is comprised of members from 7 churches in Prince George, incorporating Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Salvation Army and United faiths. Pam Boulding is the Chair of the 2020 WDoP committee, with Marion Bartlett as co-chair. The committee will operate as a special task committee under the Worship Committee umbrella.

While the majority of the planning and work is done by the committee, it is hoped that the host church congregation will assist in some areas such as greeting, participation in the service, etc., and most of all, that the congregation will support it through attendance at the event itself. The committee is just beginning the planning process, so there will be more information provided once some of the details are ironed out. In the meantime, if you could mark your calendars for that evening, it would be grand.

So in closing, have a great summer everyone, and please remember, if you have some time to assist with service through the summer, please do not hesitate to call Marion Bartlett @250-964-4696. Big steps or little ones, we welcome them all.

Hello from your Fellowship Team

With summer weather finally here, our core team is looking forward to some downtime over the summer. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our Trinity United family for the many ways they have helped us over the past year.

With change, comes change! In previous summers, the Team has taken time off from the weekly coffee, tea, juice and refreshments over July and August. Last summer, it became apparent that some of you really like your hot drinks, even in the summertime, and the Fellowship Team is working to meet the need. However, we do need your help.



For almost all of the summer weekends, one member of the fellowship team has volunteered for “refreshments” duty. With a single volunteer, we can provide cold beverages in the sanctuary following weekly services. If you would like to have hot beverages, please consider signing up to assist the team member, as hot beverages is a two-person job in our experience. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Having a second volunteer will make coffee possible.

For the August and September long weekends, we have not had any team member able to commit. Someone will make sure that cold beverages are available for those weekends. A volunteer from outside the team will again make it possible to provide hot beverages on those Sundays.

Otherwise, have a safe and happy summer filled with memories, family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wilson
Trinity United Fellowship Team

Summer Worship Schedule:

- July 7 – Service with Rev. Bob
- July 14 - Service with Rev. Bob
- July 14 - Care home Service at 2pm at Simon Fraser
- July 21 - Service with Lay Leadership
- July 28 - Service with Lay Leadership
- August 4 - Service with Lay Leadership
- August 11 - Service with Lay Leadership
- August 18 - Service with Lay Leadership
- August 25 - Service with Rev. Bob

Summer Office Hours:

Thursdays 9:00 am – 12 noon

