

MINISTER'S MESSAGE—REV. BOB

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." ~ Psalm 46:1-3 (NIV)

I've never been one for naïve hope or optimism. I've often found phrases like "it's all in God's hands" or "It's all part of God's plan" as being vapid shallow theology. I would say I'm a hopeful person. I tend to see the possibilities in life, the potential of our interconnection, especially in intersectional and liminal spaces. It's one of the reasons why I'm a firm believer in the power of community and what we can accomplish when we ground ourselves both in it and a daring, inspiring, grace-filled embodiment of Jesus' gospel. Even with all of that I don't think I've ever been naïve.

I mean how could you be naively hopeful in our world. If the evening news is part of God's plan...wow...really? Israel bombing Iran and potentially starting another generational conflict in the Middle East while continuing a path of aggression in Gaza that has been condemned by the World Council of Churches. Ukraine and Russia still can't find a path to peace and so the war trudges on and the only people benefiting from it are those selling the arms and reaping historic profits from suffering. "No King" protests have taken cities by storm in what is purported to be the greatest democracy in the world.



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The G7 summit has at times descended into a trumptonian circus. Our own country is wrestling with if we really want our elbows to be up and if we do, does that mean we have to apologize for it and what about Albertan separatism? Even our denomination feels divided as we celebrate our centennial with the challenges and blessings that have been part of it. This summer at GC45 there are reports that say by 2035 there will be less than 140 full-time ministry positions and that congregations are struggling to meet existing financial commitments while there's also a proposal from the General Council Executive to increase the annual assessments (the tax paid to be part of The United Church of Canada). I can definitely say there are days when I really want the Psalmists refuge in and strength of God. There are definitely days when all I can say is, "I just don't get it!" Thankfully even in these troubled times our God is ever present and I'm part of an amazing community of faith!

There's no denying that this time and generation has its share of challenges, yet so did those who took the insanely courageous leap of faith by saying yes to church union in 1925. Just think about what the world was like at that moment in history. For Newfoundland a whole generation of its next leaders had died in one morning just a few years before union. The great depression was just four years away. The dirty thirties would be the context where the newly formed United Church would test its theological metal. World War II would be on the horizon soon enough and once again the world would be thrown into a war to end all wars. Canada was still expanding. There was challenge. Untold suffering and a growing separation between the haves and the have nots, yet there was also hope. Real hope. The kind that rolls up its sleeves and looks at the powers of tyranny and oppression and says, "come on. I dare you!" A hope that is part of our very DNA as disciples of Jesus who believe that the forces of evil in this world cannot blow out the light of faith that burns within each of us as disciples of Jesus. A hope that knows how to take risks and step out into the future, not because we can see exactly how it will turn out, but because we know that God will be there as we build resilient communities of deep spirituality, daring justice, and bold discipleship.

Lola Ridge is quoted as saying, "you are full of unshaped dreams. You are laden with beginnings...There is hope in you..." I believe that this is absolutely true for Trinity United. We are filled with unshaped dreams and laden with the potentiality of new beginnings as individuals and as a community of faith. That's who we are. We're literally the product of an unshaped dream that asked, "how can we be the most effective United Church presence in Prince George?" A dream of a safer space where everyone could be valued, included, loved, and affirmed. A dream of showing what an anti-racist community could look like. A dream where church could find its place back at the centre of community once again. A dream where partnerships

break down competitive isolationist thinking and instead build a mosaic of beautiful people created in the image of God made even stronger because of their differences. A dream that walks differently the pathway of reconciliation and healing, that is willing to own its history and admit its faults, to listen to hard truths, and own the benefit from our complicity. And none of this will be easy. It isn't supposed to be.

As spring turns to summer, I hope each of us will find moments to ground ourselves in those unshaped dreams and the hope that is in our community and the ever-present help of the Divine shown to us in Jesus. May the warmer summer nights, food growing on trees and in the earth, and the gathering of communities to celebrate milestones remind us, that even in a troubled world, God is good...all the time!
Summer blessings.

Rev. Bob

FINANCE COMMITTEE—DOUG HOFSTEDE

We are halfway through the year and the congregation continues to be very generous, donating close to what is expected at this time of year. M&S donations are also doing well. Going into the summer months, donations have historically slowed. We have a number of ways to give.

Give at the Sunday service.

Drop off an envelope to 3555-5th Ave.

Join PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). This is a way authorize a regular automatic donation. Fill out the form on the United Church of Canada website.

E-Transfer to bookkeeper@trinitypg.ca.

Text "Donate" to 1-844-422-2899

Donate on our website www.trinitypg.ca . There is a donate button on the top right menu on the main web page.

Thank you again for your financial support that makes all our ministry and programs a reality.

Doug Hofstede

Finance Committee Chair





OFFICIAL BOARD — GLEN SCHMIDT

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2

The summer season is upon us, and it is a time when those who are able, often travel to see new things and visit family and friends. The children are out of school and we are surrounded by green. It is a beautiful time of the year.

The Trinity United Church Board has been meeting regularly through the year but we will take July off as is our usual custom. The church is in a good place as far as finances and new opportunities are concerned. The Board is grateful for the work of Reverend Bob and the staff who contribute to our ministry. I'd also like to thank the Board members for their work as well as all the people who work on the committees that keep our church thriving.

As I write this note I am mindful of the forest fires burning across the country, especially in Manitoba where thousands of people have been evacuated. We pray for their safety and quick return to their homes. Rising global temperatures, forest fires, and extreme weather events serve to remind us that we have not been faithful stewards when it comes to looking after creation. We pray that we can increase our efforts to preserve and protect the planet on which we live.

If you are travelling this summer or if you are staying at home, I want to wish you safety and relaxation. Enjoy the summer and any opportunities you have to be with family and friends.

Glen Schmidt

Board Chair



FELLOWSHIP TEAM—CATHIE REID

Hello from the Fellowship Team.

I would like to thank you for your support of all our fundraising activities. Our most recent fundraiser, the Spring Silent Auction, raised \$1500.00. We are looking for other fundraising ideas. If you have any ideas for a fundraiser, please let me know.

We do not usually serve tea and coffee after Worship during July & August, but we do serve iced tea and cookies. We will resume our normal activities in September.

On behalf of the Fellowship Team, I wish you a restful and relaxing summer.

Safe Travels,

Cathie Reid,

Chair, Fellowship Team

M & P COMMITTEE—KEITH TAITE

As always, the role of the M&P committee is to provide confidential support for all of the church's paid staff and to act as a liaison, fostering the relationship between the staff and the congregation.

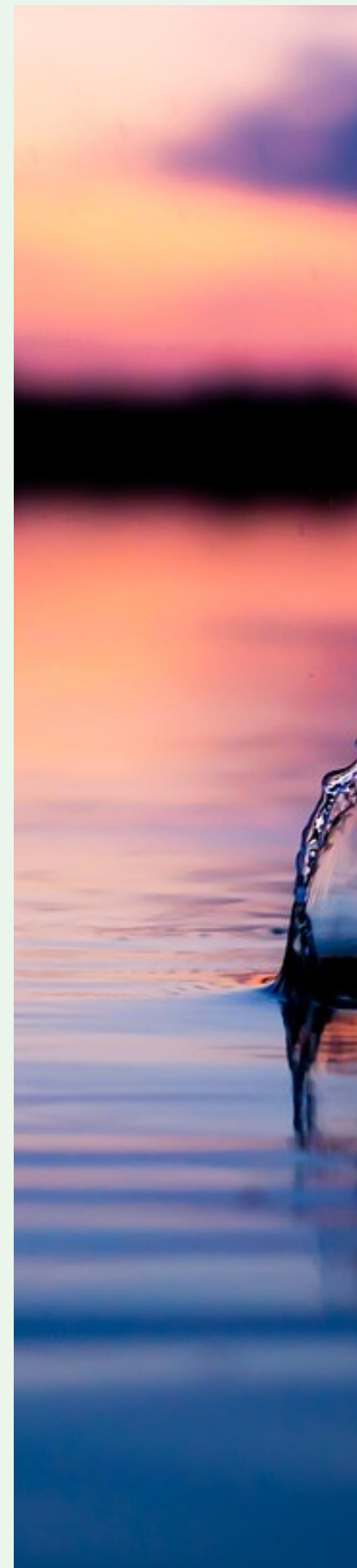
We were pleased to host a staff dinner to show our appreciation for all the great things they do for our ministry, on a daily basis, throughout the year (thank you Vicki for hosting).

The committee does not meet during the summer months (unless an issue arises that must be addressed). Meetings will continue in the fall reviewing staff needs, working conditions, and concerns.

Over the summer months we trust that staff will have opportunities to enjoy time and activities with family or friends and getting some time to relax.

Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)

Heather Neumann
Vicki Brown
Shannon Carson
Allan Reed



OUTREACH VICKIE BROWN AND JUDY ADDIE

Welcome Summer!

Judy Addie and I would like to wish everyone a safe, fun-filled blessed summer and a chance to get out and explore our beautiful world! Just a reminder that the need for Outreach and ACE continues through the summer. Please bring non-perishable food items to Church on the first Sunday of each month to keep the A.C.E cupboards and kitchen well stocked. We will be continuing to make sandwiches and serve lunches down at St. Vincent's on the second Sunday of each month – July 13th and August 10th. Many people will be away on holidays so we are always in need of new volunteers to help in either capacity. If you have always wondered what is involved, this would be a great opportunity to find out and we would love to have you. No experience necessary! Sandwich making occurs in Trinity's kitchen immediately following Church and we meet at 1:45 behind St. Vincent's to make up and serve bag lunches at the door. We are usually finished between 3:30 – 4 pm. Please contact Judy or Vickie if you are interested.

We will also be collecting sunhats/ballcaps, rain gear, water bottles, and socks to help people cope with our summer weather, whatever it may be.

Although it is only June, we would like to give you a heads up to start thinking about school supplies for kids who are in need of some extra support. This can include backpacks, pencils, washable felt pens, crayons, rulers, erasers, scissors, notebooks, kids socks, etc. We would like to collect them mid-August to deliver to inner city schools and Harmony House for kids registering in September. The schools and families are truly appreciative of any help we give them. And if you are doing some shoe-shopping for the fall, hang onto those shoeboxes for our Christmas shoeboxes in December. One can never be too prepared! Lol!

In the meantime, enjoy your summer and stay safe!

Blessings,

Vickie Brown and Judy Addie, Co-chairs Outreach



SUMMER PICKUP CHOIR

Anyone who would like to sing in the choir, show up at 9:30 on Sunday and something is put together with whoever shows up



CHOIR — ERICA SKOWRON

I would like to thank the choir, our percussionists, Nancy Shelford and Rev. Bob; our accompanist, Vic Steblin; associate director, Diane Kjorven and Sandy Long and Kathleen Rowlands, our fill in accompanists for their all their work and dedication this past season.

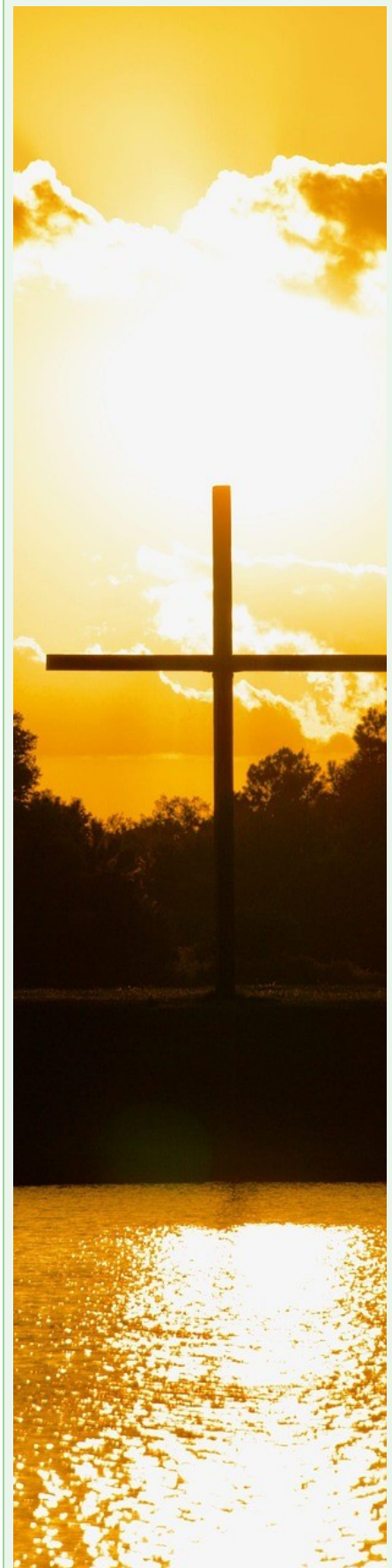
I am off for July and August and the choir takes a break from our regular Wednesday night rehearsals. During the summer months, Diane, Sandy, Roberta and Vic organize the pick up choir. Anyone is welcome to join this choir. Just show up at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning and look for the other choir members. Music is chosen and rehearsed and sung during the service. This is a great way to give the choir a try.

Our regular rehearsals will start up again on September 3 at 6:30 pm – 8 pm in the sanctuary. If you love to sing, think about joining us in the fall.

Have a wonderful summer.

Erica Skowron

Choir Director





Pride Parade & Booth

***JUL 12th | 10-11AM
Downtown PG***

***Join us in walking and
hosting a booth at the
Pride Parade this year!***





Camp Spirit registration is open!
We have 24 camper spaces and 6 Level Up Youth spaces.

Day Camps for Children 6-11 years!

At Camp Spirit we value listening to & experiencing Sacred Stories, enjoying times of Creativity & Science, moving to Music, Sharing Meals together, and fostering Community, Friendships & Leadership!

Level Up Youth for People 12-14 years!

Camp Spirit Level Up Youth will connect with the same scriptures and themes as the campers, and focus on teamwork, skill building, fun and community while connecting to God at their level.

Registration is through our website: <https://www.campspirit.ca/>

BURSARY CODES (called Discount Codes in the system):

The 25% and 50% discount codes are available on the registration system. Families need to email or call the office for the 75% and 100% discount codes. If you have members of your Community of Faith who need bursary support, feel free to provide the codes.

SPIRIT25 - 25% off

SPIRIT50 – 50% off

DISCOUNT75 – 75% off

FREE100 – 100% off

*Note: capitals are necessary

YouthCrew applications are open – if you have youth ages 15-17, currently in grades 8 through 11, have them watch for our announcements.



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