January 2016

TRILLIUM NEWS & VIEWS
Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ

UNITED IN CAMBRIDGE

I hope that you saw the picture and the write up about our ‘United in Cambridge’ initiative in the *Cambridge Times* early in December. There was a great picture of Liz Reed and one of our private sponsors, Kris Marchetti, with a friend, showing off the wonderful warm mittens that they made and sold in support of our Refugee Family. They raised $3000 through mitten sales! Thank you ladies!

A great deal of work has gone into gathering household goods for our family. A big thank you to the strong (and not so strong), willing furniture crew - David Reed, Brian Hershey, Dana Schmidt, Don Martin, John Reed, Dom Morgan, Mary Balfour, Susan Balfour, Samantha Hershey, Liz Reed and Steve Peterson. We also thank those who have volunteered for future moves. If you would be willing to help, get in touch with Liz or David Reed.

We are still waiting for a list from which we will choose our family. A housing committee has formed and is actively looking for accommodation for a family of 5 or 6. If you have any leads, please see Susan Balfour.

We wish to identify people in our Trillium congregation who are willing to help with this outreach initiative. You will find a pledge sheet enclosed: one side addresses monetary pledges; the other side invites donations of time and talents. When we know more about our family we will ask for help with specific tasks and purchases. Please give prayerful thought to how you can participate.

Trillium Mission:

*To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world*

Trillium Bedrock Beliefs

*Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, we believe:*

God’s Love: Unconditional
God’s Power: Miraculous
God’s Vision: Peace
God’s Grace: Forgiveness
God’s Assurance: Hope
God’s Ways: Mysterious
God’s Help Line: Prayer
God’s Promise: We Are Not Alone
God’s Hands: Us!

Trillium Core Values

Offer friendship and fellowship to all
Joyfully engage in regular spiritual practice
Uphold honesty and integrity
Reach out and serve others with kindness
Care for the earth and all creation
Give generously of our time and talent
Seek and give forgiveness
Embrace diversity
Speak out for justice
To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world!

Stewardship Corner

TRILLIUM’S FINANCIAL HEALTH STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund - End of Dec. 2015</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
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Mission & Service - End of Dec. 2015 - Required: $16,000    Achieved: $18,227

Stewardship is...

...EVERYTHING we think, say, and do after we say “I believe”
We had a great turnout for our Social Concerns and Outreach end of year meeting in December. This is the only committee at Trillium that gets to give away money; discerning priorities was the main focus of this meeting.

**We decided to support the following charities on behalf of Trillium in 2015:**

- Habitat for Humanity
- The Salvation Army
- Trinity Community Table
- Cambridge Shelter (The Bridges)
- Rare
- ONE ROOF
- House of Friendship
- Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank
- Lutherwood
- Argus

$200 was also allotted to support the Trillium Youth Ministry with their SOS Blessing Bags project.

The total amount received from the Betty Stackhouse Memorial was $4000. This has been directed to the national office of the United Church through ACT and will be eligible for matching funds from the federal government. The money will be used to help support refugees in Lebanon, not just in humanitarian ways, but also to help ensure that the children in refugee camps can get an education.

I will be stepping down from SC&O Committee in February. The past three years have been a real learning experience for me. I suggest giving some thought to the idea of joining this committee if you are interested in becoming more actively involved in the social concerns and outreach of our church.

All of us on the committee want to thank you for your support over the past year. You have been very generous in supporting global issues as well as needs closer to home.

Sheila Burtt, Chair of SC&O Committee
A Midwest Merry Christmas from Kansas City, Missouri!

Was this ever a crazy year! Time to drop a line to my family and friends!

January 2015 seems like a lifetime ago! Travis was finishing up his Welding Inspection Engineer diploma at Conestoga College. As his studies were coming to an end, he went on the good ol’ job hunt. In early February, a gentleman representing a new plant called LMV Automotive Systems (a division of Magna International) came to his school to do recruitment presentations and interviews for graduating students. In late February, Travis had his second interview. In early March, he was flown to Kansas City to tour the plant and meet the management team. And in late March, he signed the contract and it was official: Travis was now a Welding Engineer, in Missouri. We were moving to America!

Travis moved down at the end of April, just after he’d finished school. I decided to stay in Ontario a little longer, work for another month, and then take the first part of the summer to spend some time with some family and friends while I still could. Just before Travis left he decided that since we would be moving to a new country together for his job, it was time to make things official. He proposed! As of April 17th, we are ENGAGED!

While Travis was settling in to his new job in Missouri, I had a pretty good summer! I spent some time with my sister Laura in London, and she came to see me as well. My mom came down to visit Laura and me in June for Laura’s graduation (she’s an RN now!) and my birthday. I went on a FABULOUS wine-tour weekend with some girlfriends, and I drove up to Ottawa for Canada Day, something I’d never done before. On my trip to Ottawa I also saw my Dad and stepmom, as well as both my step-sisters and step-nephew (if that’s a word). I was great getting to see most of my family before I left! I also had an amazing week at a friend’s cottage just before I left. Swimming, fishing, hiking... it was the absolute best way possible to say ‘Goodbye for now!’ to Canada.

Since then we’ve been settling into life in The USA. Everyone here has been very nice and welcoming. Travis is enjoying his new job very much, despite the long hours he’s been putting in. The plant he’s working at is currently opening a new wing, so the growing pains are being felt, but they assure him all this overtime won’t last forever! I’m not currently working since I’m here under Travis’ work sponsor, but I’ve been keeping busy. I started volunteering at a Therapeutic Riding Center shortly after I got here, and then a couple months ago they asked if I would like to take the training courses to become a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor. Of course I jumped right on that! So now I’m about half-way through the course work, and in the new year I’ll be able to do my practical training. Soon I will be a riding instructor for children with physical or developmental disabilities, teaching them to ride horses. I absolutely love it!

This year has been just a whirlwind, and I am so thankful for the love and support I’ve received from my loved ones as we’ve made this huge transition. So I’m wishing you all love and happiness for this Christmas, and God’s blessings for the new year ahead!

Much Love,

Karalyn
Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ

Wedding Policy at Trillium

Trillium is currently going through a review of its Wedding Policy. A proposed Wedding Policy has been enclosed in this edition of News and Views. Please take a careful look at this policy. Your feedback is important and much appreciated as we consider how best to serve our community while remaining faithful to our Bedrock Beliefs and Core Values. You can respond in writing (directed to the Church Office) or by speaking with any member of Council, or your Ministry Team (Mark, Cindo or Teresa.)

Advent 2015

On each of the first three Sundays in Advent, the SKA (Sunday Kool Activities) Youth were asked to reflect and share their thoughts on each Advent theme. Specifically, they were to think about the coming year and how they could integrate each of these themes into their lives. Interesting discussions ensued, and we’d like to share with you our illuminations. We hope you might be stirred by our musings to reflect & commit yourself to living into Hope, Peace & Joy in the coming year ~ and in doing so be Love to all creation!

Cindo Peterson
My daughter Elizabeth is called a kinesthetic learner. Kinesthetic learning or tactile learning is, according to Wikipedia, “a learning style in which learning takes place by the students carrying out physical activities, rather than listening to a lecture or watching demonstrations.” I had never really given much thought to how people learn things until I was informed of this by Elizabeth’s mother. I just presumed everyone else learned like I did.

Howard Gardner proposed back in 1983 that people have 9 basic learning styles and that we often favour one or two styles over others. His work proved revolutionary in many areas of education as people began to consider different approaches to learning and growing. No longer would one approach be considered sufficient in teaching children and adults.

One of the challenges for churches in 2016 is that we have tended to favour one learning style over others. This style tends to emphasize listening as the primary mode of learning. It puts great importance on remaining still and maintaining a certain level of introspection. Moving, touching, talking, seeing and socializing are not common elements in this approach to worship. Certainly not during the “sermon”!

Now don’t get me wrong. Listening is my preferred style of learning. It worked well for me in school, and when I attend worship services on Sundays when I am off, listening to a good speaker is a real treat for me. My primary way of learning these days is listening to podcasts on the web. I often find pictures and video distracting. If you’re like me the traditional worship approach works for you. Great!!

A big thank you to those of you who offered to host Sunday Coffee Fellowship in 2015.

It is now 2016 and a sheet is in the kitchen to sign up for the next three months. Coffee and tea are prepared each week. You need only provide milk and a treat, and help to set up and clean up afterward on the Sunday that best suits you.

Harold Matthews
The problem only arises when people who learn differently than many of us come to church. These may be people who need to move and touch, people who need the stimulation of conversation, or people who need to smell or see something. When those people come they often struggle with the traditional approaches to worshipping in church.

If you’ve been coming to Trillium over the past year you’ve probably heard of something called LivewirE. The genesis for LivewirE began with an observation by Dave Booth that we had several people attending Trillium sporadically, who seemed to want to come to church but found the traditional approach of minister speaking and congregation listening unhelpful. Action and stimulation, not listening and introspection, were what they needed to best function and learn.

As most of you already know, the Worship Service begins with everyone gathered in the sanctuary. We sing as one people, offer prayers as one people, and give financial support to the Trillium Mission as one people. We then allow ourselves to divide into two separate streams, one that remains in the sanctuary, the other meeting in the elevator foyer for LivewirE.

LivewirE begins with participants watching a short video, usually the recap from last week’s service, and then discussing the ideas in the video in conversation with others. It is not a particularly radical step, to be honest, but still an approach that allows for a fundamentally different kind of participation in worship and learning. The conversation can stay very close to the original theme of the video or it can move far ranging from its inception. Each week is a different experience.

In 2016 I would like to see as many people as possible experience LivewirE. The reason I would like to see you give LivewirE a try is not because I feel the sanctuary experience is insufficient. Hardly! Rather, I want you to experience it so that when you meet someone who finds the traditional approach of speaker and audience boring or unhelpful, you can let them know of a second stream at Trillium that allows someone a different experience and a different approach to learning and growing spiritually. Without a direct experience I don’t think many of you would be willing to invite others to Trillium and LivewirE.

Remember, at Trillium we “embrace diversity.” And that now includes diverse ways of learning!!
TRILLIUM UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission: To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world!

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Children & Youth Minister: Cindo Peterson
Music Director: Teresa Venhuizen
Office: Teresa Venhuizen
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Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our Vision: Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ

TRILLIUM NEWS & VIEWS 2016
January
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Send articles to: trilliumnews@golden.net
Articles may also be placed in the Newsletter Mailbox in the church office.
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The February issue will be available on Sunday, February 7, 2015.