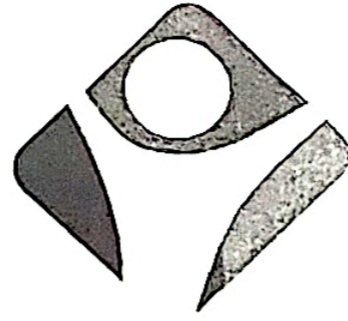


Trinity United Church
30 S. Algoma Street
Thunder Bay, ON. P7B 3A8
Phone: 345-5621
Email: trinityu@tbaytel.net
Website: www.trinityunited.church



DECEMBER 2023
TRINITY*united*
using our gifts and strengths in the service
of something greater than ourselves

Where Have All the Angels Gone?

Dear Trinity United Church Friends,



Our Advent and Christmas stories are full of angels. There is the angel who comes to Zachariah to tell him that he and his barren wife Elizabeth are about to have a child named John. He will grow up to become John the Baptist who will prepare the way for the Messiah. There is of course the angel that tells the unmarried Mary that she will give birth to the Son of God. An angel also comes to Joseph, Mary's betrothed, in a dream to tell him that this crazy story of Mary's is true. There are also the whole host of angels who visit the shepherds as they mind their flock on the night of the birth of Jesus. "And suddenly there

was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God loves." (Luke 2.13-14)

It seems that once all that was done, and the story was told, the angels just stopped visiting us here on earth. I wonder where all the angels have gone because our world could certainly use with a few more visits from the angels. In a world full of war, uncertainty, and division we desperately need some more good news about peace and joy.

The angels haven't all gone. I met an angel the other day when I was in Timmins for work. I had tea with a young man whose mother is a United Church minister. He doesn't have much to do with the church anymore, but he has spent his life working for homeless people struggling with addiction on the streets of Timmins. As I heard him speak about his work, I got a glimpse of his angel wings. He would of course deny it.

As we enter yet another season of waiting and preparing for the Christ Child to be born anew in the manger of our hearts, perhaps, we can ask God to show us the angels in our midst because they are out. Perhaps we can let the Spirit enable us to let our inner angel out as we find ways to care for each other and to make a difference in our world. As the writer of Hebrews puts it, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13.2). Let us be open to the angels God is still sending to us bringing us good news of great joy and let us be the angel God has called us to be.

Blessings on your Advent and Christmas Journey,

Rob Smith
Pastoral Relations Minister
Canadian Shield Regional Council

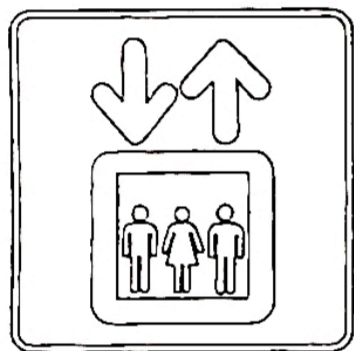
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM CHRISTINA! (Pastoral Charge Supervisor)

When we look around at the world's chaos, we must consider ourselves blessed beyond measure to live where we live, in a country that allows for free expression, reasonable safety and a natural environment that is beautiful! As we draw closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus, we will be even more blessed in the change of season that brings the crisp crunch of snow, the clear, clean smell of fresh air and the sweet sound of carols as a background to our days. May each of you, and all of you, experience a wonderful and wonder-filled Christmas season, with family and friends, as we all celebrate the coming Christ.

PROPERTY NOTES (Jean Murray)

The Property Committee has been looking at the mobility issues in Trinity Church. A very productive meeting was held with Jim Migliazza from Superior Home Health Care. He has given us 3 options to improve access from the Sanctuary to the hall downstairs.

ONE OPTION is to install 2 stairlifts from the Narthex along each staircase. This would require moving the fire door out a bit to make room for the chair. **OPTION 2** is to install one stairlift on the back stairs. Here there are 2 choices - installing the chair on either side of the inside railing (requiring us to move the fountain) or the outside railing, requiring us to move the fire door, both to make room for the chair.



OPTION 3 is to install a lift in the southwest corner of the sanctuary by the stain glass window and the Vestry wall. This would take a wheelchair and 1 person or a walker and one person or 3 to 4 people. The lift would come down in the kitchen by the door to Trinity Hall and open into the hallway. This would require us to move some cupboards and the fridge.

We have asked an architect to draw up some plans and give us an estimate of the cost. The lift would run by electricity and have a battery as backup. Also, because Trinity is a public building, any changes to the building must be approved by the City. We are waiting for the architect's drawings so more news will follow.

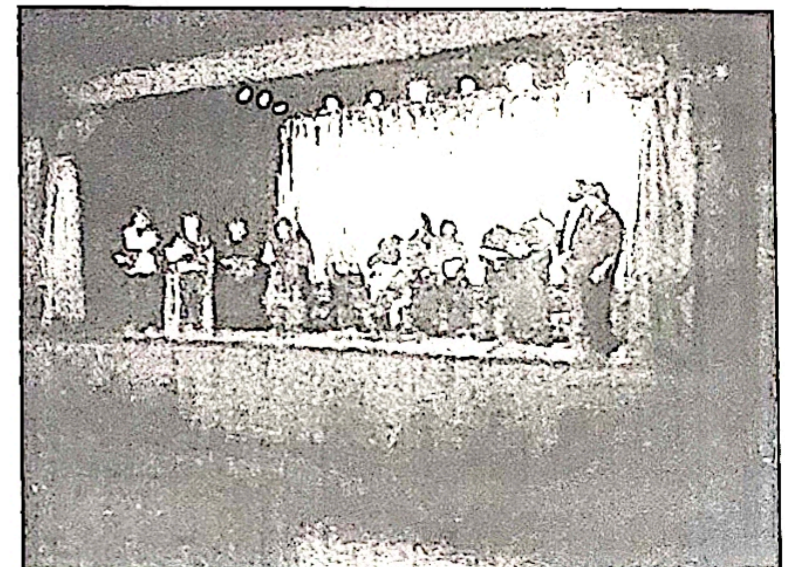
APPLAUZE BENEFITS TRINITY (Shane Judge)

Applauze Productions has recently presented Trinity Council with a cheque for \$2,400. That's the amount raised from ticket sales for a concert held in Trinity Hall in mid-November.

For the past three years, Applauze, a music and dance school, has been a key partner and the main tenant of Trinity Hall. From the beginning of its tenancy, Applauze committed to holding an annual fundraiser to benefit Trinity. The November 12 concert was held to meet that commitment. About 140 people attended the event. The concert included a performance by the Trinity Choir led by **Sandra Cosbey** and accompanied by **Kenji** and **Peter Cosbey** on cellos, as well as several singing groups associated with Applauze.

Applauze has been a most beneficial tenant. The company, headed by Denise and Russell Krawchuck, has shared the cost of major electrical upgrades to Trinity Hall worth thousands of dollars.

Applauze will be holding its next event called Applauze Family Christmas, in Trinity Hall on December 16th. Please come out and support our most valuable tenant.



M&P COMMITTEE (*Heather Schiewe*)

The M&P Committee is happy to announce the hiring of **Jan Hunter** as the new Office Administrator. She will be working with **Joan Bailey** learning all the "ins and outs" of managing the Trinity Office until Joan's retirement the end of December. If you have occasion to stop by the office, please say "hello" and make her feel welcome.

SAVE THE DATE!

A (Drop-In) **RETIREMENT TEA** is planned for **Saturday, January 6, 2024** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in Trinity Hall to bid farewell to **Joan Bailey** who is retiring on December 31 after many years of faithful and loyal service to Trinity. Watch for further details.



SENIORS' CHRISTMAS BASKETS (*Roberta Wood*)

Since the COVID virus seems to be fairly prevalent within the community, for safety reasons, it was decided to again forego the in-house Seniors' Christmas Party and instead deliver Christmas Cheer baskets. We invite donations that would be appropriate gift items (mugs, cups & saucers, small Christmas items, napkins, notebooks, pens, packaged teas, etc.) A labelled box is available in the Narthex or drop off to the Church Office.

LADIES' LUNCH IN DECEMBER (*Lee-Ann Smetaniuk*)

On December 14th, Trinity women and friends, are invited to attend the monthly lunch at Vanderwees (Tulip Café). This location gives everyone the opportunity to view the beautiful Christmas trees and decorations on display as well as enjoying an informal lunch. Bring a loonie for the draw.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION AFTER CHURCH (*Josie Salonen*)

The season of Christmas is the perfect time for friends and family to gather together. For this reason, **COFFEE & CONVERSATION will take place downstairs after every Sunday morning service in December.** Then, it's back to having this activity on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of the month.

WORSHIP (*Pat Jackson*)

I enjoy looking through the Responsive Prayers written by Rev. David Sparks in the three volumes of Prayers to Share. This one popped up as I began to think of the coming of Christmas and I would like to use it: (Prayers to Share, Year C, 2003)

Come good friends to Bethlehem!

Come to Bethlehem, and celebrate a newborn child with Mary and Joseph.

Come to Bethlehem, and rejoice that God's symbol of love is a tiny, helpless baby.

Come to Bethlehem, and sing praises with the shepherds for what God has done.

Come to Bethlehem, and fall silent in awe and wonder.

Yes, the invitation is always present and Trinity United welcomes all who accept an invitation to come, be with us, and enjoy this season of Advent and Christmas. Enjoy the music, enjoy the message and enjoy the friendship every Sunday.

ON-LINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2023

December 3 (Advent 1)	Trinity Hosting	Robert Cosbey preaching
December 10 (Advent 2)	St. Paul's Hosting	Rev. Desire Terivepi preaching
December 17 (Advent 3)	Pinegrove Hosting	Christina Stricker preaching
December 24 (Advent 4)	Trinity Hosting	Rev. Rob Smith preaching at 10:30 am
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	a Trinity Service	Rev. Randy Boyd preaching at 9:00 pm
December 31 (New Year's Day)	a Trinity Service	to be announced – but fun

MOVIE NIGHT (*Marlene Perrier*)

On Friday, November 10th, the movie **Barbie** was shown to 44 people in the Assembly Room of Trinity Church. This was a very social and fun time for all. It was a pleasure to see some parents who also brought their children. There was a good discussion after the movie which gave us all a chance to share our views. We also provided popcorn, juice and pop which made for a delightful evening. Special thanks to **Ross McCubbin** for giving Trinity the movie screen in the Assembly Hall and to **Maureen Judge** for supplying the movies for our Movie Nights. Our next movie will be held in January, 2024. When the date and the movie have been selected, this will be announced via our weekly Trinity newsletter.

TRINITY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND NEARLY NEW BOUTIQUE (*Heather Schiewe*)

This was our 2nd event since COVID not focussing on a Christmas Tea. Co-Convenors from 2022 contacted their former team members and their efforts began. Notices were sent out to the Congregation requesting baking, Nearly New clothing, accessories etc., Christmas articles, crafts and knitting and “Special” things suitable for the Silent Auction Table. **Pat Jackson’s** Bake Table “Phoners”, followed up with phone calls. **Rick Windsor** registered 129 guests who came through Trinity Hall’s doors. Unfortunately, there were many other scheduled events in the community that day, so this was half the number of last year’s guests. The Gourmet Chefs spent 5 Wednesdays cooking flavourful and favourite casseroles. In the first half hour of our event, Gourmet Foods had sold ALL of the Turkey Pot Pies, and by 3:30 pm, all their wares were sold! Well done **Jean Murray** and ladies! **Pat Jackson’s** Team put together lovely trays of delicious baking and they also had a “sell out” by Sunday morning after Church. The Hall looked beautiful. The Craft/Knitting, Christmas and Silent Auction Tables were “decked out” in white and red table coverings and their wares set out in an inviting manner. Thank you, **Lee-Ann Smetaniuk** and your team, **Martha Mayes** and your ladies. The Silent Auction Table had a variety of lovely articles put together by **Paula Leach** and **Norma Foley**, with encouraging beginning bids. The Nearly New Boutique had much to offer, featuring jewellery, men’s and women’s clothing, shoes, purses, sweaters etc., 2 dressing rooms to try things on, and 2 floor standing mirrors for those trying on “outer wear”. Many thanks to those who donated articles to this venue, and to those diligent volunteers on **Marlene Perrier’s** team who helped put it all together and to put it all away after the event. Guests could enjoy a cup of coffee and a muffin from the Refreshment Bar, manned by **Cynthia Loos**, with coffee by **Ingrid Le Marquand** and **Melida Boyd**. Advertising and posters were handled by **Gary Salonen**, finances by **Gary and Josie Salonen**. and Facebook ads by **Lorna Plant**. New this year were the “Musical Interludes”, provided by the Young Cosbey Trio of **Carl, Nozomi and Kenji Cosbey**, who graced us with violin and cello renditions. A most professional young trio. Thank you so much for your beautiful music. My personal thanks to all who helped to make this another success. At this time of writing the profit achieved was \$6,063.61.



GOURMET FOODS (*Jean Murray*)

2023 marks the 19th year that there has been a Gourmet Food table at the Christmas event. Workers have changed over the years, but **Cindy Loos, Ingrid LeMarquand, Heather Schiewe, Carol Forneri** and **Jean Murray** have worked for at least 10 years and for the past 2 years, **Sheila Colquhoun**. For 6 weeks, we meet one morning a week for 2 to 3 hours and this year made 225 units for sale at the Bazaar. We sold every one of them for a profit of \$1287.06. Many thanks to 5 members of the congregation who donate the turkeys for the turkey pot pies. This year we sold 70 turkey pot pies. Thanks again to **Cindy, Ingrid, Heather, Carol, and Sheila** for all your help and being such great shoppers getting all the bargains so we keep the prices down.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!