



Editor - Mike Tanner

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**Rector's Message**

I would like to thank the congregation for all the feedback that we have been given about the latest sermon series called "Relationships - Getting Your Act Together." The



preaching on this subject has been well received by the congregation and that is a l w a y s gratifying for us clergy. The series was embarked upon because of a number of requests from congregational members to preach on this subject and it seems we were wise to listen to those requests. There are many aspects of Christian discipleship that we could teach on and, of course, time is limited, but if there is some particular aspect of Christian life you would like us to teach about why not mention it to us – you never know what might happen.

Now we are approaching the season of Emmanuel – God with us. Christmas is that time of year when we celebrate with great rejoicing the message that

God is with us as is evidenced by the birth of the Christ child. It is a powerful message that has given comfort and hope to people in all kinds of situations and circumstances.

When I was ordained a priest I gradually became aware that when I walked into the room of a sick person or of a family in distress people usually took great comfort in my presence. It took me a while to understand why. It was not because I'm a great guy or even because I might have something profound or spiritual to say. It was rather because a priest coming into the room was an outward sign to people in distress that Jesus was present.

Now let us remember that the scripture calls the body of believers a royal priesthood. Collectively and individually, ordained and lay, we represent to the world that God is with them. To those who are ashamed of what they are doing or how they live our presence may not be welcome, but to those who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life our presence can be strengthening and even life giving.

This Christmas season I invite you to reflect upon how you might bring the presence of God into the life of your family, friends and community. Christmas is not just a time to celebrate – it is a time to be who we are – a royal priesthood.

*Richard Salt  
 Rector of Trinity Church Sarnia  
 Archdeacon of Kent/Lambton*



## Centennial Year 1909..2009

Trinity Anglican Church which originally began in the public school “across the road” has grown in the past 100 years to the large congregation it is today - and we are celebrating. Trinity began as a Sunday school attached to St. Paul's, Point Edward. The congregation met in Clark Public School on Murphy Road from the late 1800's as a Sunday school class under the direction of the Rev. V.M. Durnford, then Rector of Point Edward. It very shortly evolved into a congregation. In 1921 it became difficult to continue services in the Clarke School house and decision was made to build a church when a small wooden structure was erected in 1922. It was destroyed by fire in 1946 and was replaced with a brick building in 1947 and has had many additions since. The Worship Centre and Offices were added in 1999.

Our Centennial year started out the year with a vintage Tea held on May 2 2009. The tea was well attended and included both men and women who enjoyed dressing as their ancestors in period costume. Lively participation by all and much revelry, it will be remembered as a fun day indeed. Delicacies were served as in earlier times and the formality of pouring tea was performed by Cathy Salt, Val Roe and Sheila Hewett, wives of the clergy. This was a tradition established in earlier times to supposedly keep the clergy wives busy and out of the kitchen. Flowers for the tables were donated by Martha Wilson and Family.

A 40-foot banner was designed and donated as well as a special logo for our use throughout the year to announce our Centennial year. This was given by Chuck Archer.

A special family dinner was held in honour of the Centennial Year on May 23, 2009, catered by Pam Edwards. This event was also well-attended and concluded with entertainment which included The Christ Church bell ringers and Vic Kennedy's Music group. Greenery was provided by Frank Thoren to help decorate our Worship Centre for this special occasion as well as flowers donated by Canadian Tire. Thank you to Lenie Severin who donated her time and vehicle to pick up the greenery from Frank Thoren's Nursery.

A special service on Trinity Sunday June 7, 2009 was the next event that included Bishop J.P. Peck and Rev. W.V. Graham former rectors of Trinity Church. At the special Sunday service banners had been made and were presented from each Mission and Ministry. This was followed by our annual picnic put on by the Gathered Mission and held at Mike Weir Park The day was beautiful and sunny just as Kate Allison had ordered,

We are in the process of compiling a cook book for purchase in time for Christmas produced by Cathy Salt.

*Shirley Pettit*



Centennial Service



Trinity Tea Ladies

## Trinity People

In this column we are pleased to mark significant moments in the life of Trinity families.

Baptism of **Macey Marie Foster**, daughter of **Steve and Brianne Foster**.

We mark the passing from life to life of **Warren Robertson 72, Aotto Mylloja 69, Stu Bradburn 74, Canon Walter Barnes 74, Wayne Brennan 51, Gertrude Purton 89, Joan Whittall 79, Alma Worsley 84, Edna Ladnachuk 81, Ian Fraser 89, Barbara Kirton 75, Violet Morell 87, William (Bill) Mackintosh 63**. Our condolences go to their families.

These families celebrated weddings at Trinity: **Crystal Gernaey and Patrick Boulton July 18, Nadine D'Angelo and Joseph Salvatore Aug 2, Leah Anne Lacroix and Jordan MacDougall Sept 5**, may their lives together be blessed.

We welcome new families who have come to worship with us. **Jimmie & Gayle Toyne, Charlotte and Jimmy** are originally from Leamington. **Sean and Sue Farren, Ryan and Sarah** are happy to be at Trinity, Sean is from New Brunswick. **Dave and Brenda Bandy, and Kyle** have returned to their roots in Sarnia after moving across this land with Imperial. **Marty and Jan Allison, Morgan, Emma and Max** moved from Corunna and enjoy the youth programs. We are happy to have **Sarah and Brooklyn Black** join us on Sundays. **Carrie Brennan** is a long time Sarnia resident who first came with friends and decided to join the church. **Thomas and Jenn Goodspeed** and their children **Helen, Harrison and Emily** enjoy the youth activities. **Paul & Kathy Witheridge** are pleased to be here, Kathy is originally from the UK. We welcome **Riziki Mana Maua** and her children **Rehema, Abi, Loi, Arthur, Stella, Eto, Ungwa and Mkanya Esengi**. A warm welcome is also extended to **Andrew Kinsman; Brian and Natasha Lamb; Alexis Laur; Holly Prudom, Sierra and William; Doreen Hinds; Nancy Lyman; Gary and Margo Butler; Scott and Jenn Englehart, Maddie and Jace David Baldock; Craig and Alicia Grondin, Caleb and Joshua**.

If you have significant events to mark for the next issue in May, please let the office know.

*Mike Tanner*

## Esther

Let's first focus on the character of Esther by explaining her names. We first know her by Hadassah. When her parents died she was raised by her cousin Mordechai "as his own daughter".

Hadassah stems from the word "hadas," myrtle. According to Jewish writings, Esther was similar to the hadas in that she had a deep olive-green complexion. We also know that the leaves of this plant have a very sweet fragrance that can only be released when the leaves are bruised and crushed. Just like the hadas, which is only fragrant when it is bruised and crushed, so too was Esther's potential brought out to its fullest by her hard life, including the loss of her parents.

The name Esther is related to the word "hester," meaning hidden. When we look deeper into the Megillah (Jewish writings), we see something remarkable. For nine years, until Haman's downfall, Esther guarded the secret of her ancestry. She never told anyone that she was a Jewess. Examining her situation, we know that as the wife of King Xerxes she was constantly pressured to reveal the truth. Yet she withstood this pressure. Why?

Did Mordechai realize there was something unique in Esther becoming the queen? He knew that she was a righteous woman and that it had to be Divine providence that she became the wife of the non-Jewish king. Did Mordechai realize that God had something in store for the Jewish people and that Esther would be instrumental in saving them? Was Mordechai aware of the impending calamity that would befall the Jews and foresaw that Esther would be the one through whom they would be saved?

When this calamity does come to pass, Mordecai sends these words to Esther: "who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this"? Esther 4: 14

So, take heart! When you are in a trying situation and not even able to speak out about your love for God, perhaps God has you where you are for a reason – a reason that serves His purposes "for such a time as this"

*Joy Cafazzo*

## Memories of Walter Barnes

*By Dick Hebbourn*

Walter came to Trinity 32 years ago and found a relatively small parish, but one with a strong sense of community. We, however, didn't know what to expect our new rector to be, but we found ourselves welcoming a humble man with a refreshing preaching style, often using dramatic illustrations such as the time he ran up and down the aisle pretending to be a WW11 tank to help us understand. He spoke, we listened ...and remembered.



Beneath this quiet exterior, we found a man of incredible strength. This showed only too well at a parish board meeting when we were discussing finances and the need for a bazaar/fun day to raise money. Walter simply said "NO, if

you want a church, then the congregation must pay for it!" Despite pleas about the loss of the fellowship aspects of this annual event in addition to our financial needs, he dug his heels in. The parish went further into deficit funding – but grew out of it.

It soon became apparent that love ruled his life. First and foremost was his love for his Lord and Saviour, everything else came from this. Secondly was his love for his family, especially for his wife, Marylen and the for his children. His home was a haven of peace where every visitor was welcomed and made to feel very special.

Walter's impact went far beyond our parish family. He experienced Cursillo and this became a significant part of his ministry, particularly working with Brother Anthony on the weekends dedicated to women. It is no exaggeration to say that he had tremendous impact on many people. No one met him without experiencing the depth

of his spirituality. His relationship with God let him see beyond a person's personality and help lead them to become what God wanted them to be. Only recently one clergyman told me he entered the ministry because of Walter's perception and guidance.

It is a remarkable tribute to his ministry amongst us that in the long interregnum between his retirement and Richard's arrival, our parish actually grew by the addition of four new families!

Thank you Walter, thank you Marylen for sharing Walter with us. Walter, now rest in the peace of your Saviour's loving arms.

Some facts of Walter's life (from Marylen Barnes) by Sheila Hewett

Walter was born in Windsor, Ontario August 4, 1924 and moved to Goderich when he was 5 years old. At a young age he was off to World War II as a radio gunner and worked behind enemy lines. Because of this he suffered from hearing loss in his later life, as did many war veterans. When he came home from war he went to the University of Toronto where he received a B.A. Then, he was off to Kitchener where he worked for 10 years as the Adult Program and Camps Director at the YMCA. He met Marylen Jones here and they were married in 1956.

He began to attend a seminary in Kitchener - this led him to move to London so that Walter could attend Huron University College where he received his degree in divinity. He looked after Huron Church Camp for 4 years while he was at Huron, so they never really had a summer vacation. His first parish was St. Paul's in Essex where he helped to build a new church (1962 - 1968). Then, the YMCA called him and they were off to Red Deer, Alberta. Later they moved to Stratford to continue with the YMCA from 1972 to 1976. While there Walter began taking services at St. George's in New Hamburg.

Then they made their big move to Trinity where Walter ministered from 1976 to 1990. The family lived in the manse, which is now our Christian Education Centre: they were the last family to live there. Marylen remembers arriving in their

trailer and being whisked away immediately to pick paint colours before they hardly had time to see the rooms. They lived in their trailer while the house was being painted. Their trailer then became their home-away-from home as they parked it at a conservation area. In the 1980's Walter was made a Canon. In 1990 Walter and Marylen retired and moved to Petrolia. Walter still continued helping out with services until Richard arrived. But, did Walter ever retire??? I don't think so. He became honorary assistant at Christ Church, Petrolia and St. John's, Wyoming. The archdeacon needed him here and there in the deanery. The bishop sent him off to Algonac, Michigan where this Eastern Michigan church needed his tender care. After only the first week the congregation asked him to be their pastor. He had time for hobbies, too - he was an avid golfer and a computer freak.

And so these are the facts...it doesn't tell anything about what a wonderful, kind, caring man Walter was. He always had a smile for everyone and he always had time to listen. We will miss him very much.

### Vestry 2009

The very word conjures up a sense of foreboding, the annual meeting of executive accountability, where the church business runs head first into Robertson's Rules of order. The 2009 version proved pretty tame; the first order of business had Scott Trinder present our first half million-dollar budget, after explaining in detail how we had fallen short of our 2008 goal by \$8004. The victim of our deficit is apportionment, the 'levy' paid to the diocese, and the first time in 30 years we have failed to meet our obligation, and the extra mile. Nevertheless those present accepted the new budget's 3.7% increase once the mysteries 'contra' accounts had been explained. To make the new budget more palatable, some outreach items have become discretionary. The so called Vision Initiatives such as Children's Fall Fair and Summer camps and radio advertising will only proceed if extra money over and above normal tithes and givings are directed towards these activities. The writer questioned the smoke and mirrors nature of this twist, but was assured it would not compromise our Vision, a point that Noel Gaspar echoed. Blair Baldwin cited the deficit as a need for firmer teaching on tithing, and Pete Emmons further emphasized the need for intentional evangelism for our church to stay healthy. Richard Salt replied with ministerial assurance, that both of these suggestions were close to his heart. After an hour of number crunching, the new budget passed unanimously;

and we moved on to the real work of the church.

Richard thanked those who were retiring from the Board, Sally Beaton, Claude Pelletier and Maureen Talbot, and introduced a new slate including Deputy Warden's Bonnie Carter and Dave Barcroft. When you scan through the reports of our Missions, we have touched so many lives both here at Trinity and beyond, and this is a true measure of commitment to service. Sadly, the financial health at Trinity is not shared by other Anglican churches in Sarnia. At the suggestion of Archdeacon Richard, six churches will be unofficially paired; St James will partner us. Graham Blenkhorn outlined how this process is evolving, but stressed that each Vestry has the power to determine their future, so long as they are solvent. Graham also indicated that a conversation about church building would start this year; Val Roe said that we could not wait that long to replace the flooring in the nursery room and her impassioned plea moved the congregation to direct the Board to make it happen. The final surprise was that Richard has asked to take a short sabbatical over the summer to research church growth; we hope to enjoy the fruits of his labours.

Vestry this year was held on Sunday after a soup lunch, a change from recent practice to encourage broader participation. As the good-humored crowd jostled out of the church into the wintry sun, I sensed that that we had accomplished our task.

*Mike Tanner*



Heather & Chris



Jessie & Ron

## Guiding kids and families through storms of loss.

### Trinity's Rainbows Program

The Rainbows program has been offered at Trinity each year since 1996. We have just completed a session April 21, 2009 and will begin the next session January 2010.

When something happens in a family, the entire family is affected. Even though death or divorce appears to be a grown-up problem, it does have a profound effect on the children that it touches. If a parent dies or a divorce occurs, not only do the parents grieve, the children do also. Children, because of their age and their short life experience, find it extremely difficult to verbalize those feelings.

We have some very beautiful, sensitive, caring and trained adults who have said "yes" to helping these children put those feelings into words, work through their grief, build a stronger sense of self-esteem, and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

#### **The following are some of the comments children taking the 2009 Rainbows had to say about the program.**

*"It makes me happy to come to Rainbows because I see I am not the only one going through this problem. It is nice to have people understand what you are going through."*

*"Rainbows helped me feel like I am not alone. My child and I have been more than once and it helps my child deal with her feelings not only with the divorce but with the loss of her great grandfather who she was very close to."*

*"Rainbows helped members of my family move on to rebuild their lives. It has helped me understand my anger and forgive the person who has tormented me for a number of years."*

*"I love Rainbows! It is sooo much fun. I have made new friends who I can relate to. The leaders are great too. They comfort me and listen to all my stories and feelings. I can't wait until I get home from school on Tuesdays because I know that Rainbows isn't far away!"*

*"Every Tuesday I am always excited to go to rainbows because I love everything we do there, like hangman,*

*crafts, activities and sometimes we even put paper on the wall then we get to draw on it and then we share our feelings out loud. Rainbows Rock! "*

*"I like the snacks, it makes me happy."*

*"It helps me believe in God."*

*Submitted by Barb Barcroft, Rainbows Coordinator.*

### **Turning Stamps into Water**

Last year the Outreach Committee challenged all of Trinity to start saving stamps to turn into fresh water for those who do not have access to clean water. We have collected enough stamps to buy 3 filtering systems (\$300) through Samaritan's Purse and their Turn on the Tap project.

Keep those stamps coming! Many charities and churches collect stamps to raise funds, and the secret is BULK, more stamps more money. Please bear in mind the following tips when saving stamps.

- 1 Stamps should be left on the backing paper with a border of ¼ inch left around the stamp
  - 2 Stamps should not have excess paper left on.
  - 3 I can sell this material for a minimum of \$20per Kilo up to \$100
  - 4 Other acceptable donations would be postcards, correspondence collections (pre 1950's stamps left on the envelopes) and old documents with revenue, law or tax stamps (pre 1940's should be left intact). Old stamp collections or related materials (including books related to stamps), these should be dropped off at the office, 100% of the proceeds of to the church.
  - 5 The real key for successful collecting is to have everyone in the church collecting stamps from their homes and workplaces, and having friends do the same. Its amazing how much mail can show up at any given business (even in the electronic age).
  - 6 It's important to note that anything older than 1950's should be left intact on the envelope or postcard.
  - 7 It's maybe worth noting the "green" aspect of recycling stamps, rather than going to the landfill
  - 8 I think a shoebox style collection maybe the most successful, something that explains the charity goals on the box. (I'll help get some together). Let me know what you need and I'll see what I can do.
- THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR COLLECTING

*Bonnie Carter and the Outreach Committee*

## Women's Retreat

On Saturday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 144 women gathered in the Worship Centre to listen to Robin Reese talk about finding security and hope in life through her faith in Jesus Christ. Robin talked to us about her adventures in Johannesburg, South Africa where her husband was stationed as an executive with MacDonald's Corporation. When it became known that a kidnapping attempt was planned for her husband her faith in an all protective and all powerful God kicked into gear. Robin talked about the peace she experienced in the eye of the storm as she and her husband turned their eyes to Him.

The day's retreat was centered on the scripture verse from Hebrews 6:19 – "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." This hope, as illustrated throughout the day, is our faith in Jesus. As Robin so ably demonstrated that if our faith is in the Lord we will experience peace and security in times of trial. We cannot put our hope in the things of this world, but only in the certainty of our Lord's love for us.

Throughout the day, we were lead in singing by Joy and Amanda Cafazzo along with Tara Norman. What a wonderful time we spent in praise and song!

Trinity's Women's One Day Retreat is held each year the first or second Saturday after Thanksgiving. Be sure to look for next year's event and mark your calendar. It could be a life-changing event for you!

*Cathy Salt*

## Trinity Smiles!

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius – the pilot.

## Bible Study

We all know that we should do more Bible Study, but when the rubber hits the road, often our actions fall short of our good intentions. Perhaps it's the name, after all, study smacks of school, and we've all had enough of that. Life is busy, the kids, the job, the housework, the hockey..there are a million excuses to avoid that which is good for us, such as more exercise, or studying God's word. What if it was rebranded, such as Reflections on Christian Living, and the homework was so easy, they gave you the answers!

A small group of us have found such an opportunity. Jessie, Collette, Pat, Blair, Mike, Allen and Brian, under the tutelage of Gene Thamer have been following a guide from the Navigators on a Wednesday evening. Designed both for the enquiring beginner and the mature follower, the short chapters lead you through the Bible with topics such as 'Knowing Jesus', 'Beginning a New Life', 'Growing as a Christian'. The walk is easy, the discussion lively, and the growth palpable.

Session 3, 'Talking with Christ', starts in January. The only requirements are an enquiring mind and an open heart, be sure to give it some prayerful consideration over the holidays. After all, you need one New Year's resolution you can keep!

*Mike Tanner*

## More Smiles!

The pastor was looking over the crèche the day after Christmas when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing. He went outside and saw a little boy pulling a new red wagon. In the wagon was Jesus.

He walked up to the boy and said, "Hi, there. Where did you get the baby Jesus?"

The boy answered honestly, "In the church."

"Why did you take him?" the pastor asked.

"Well," said the boy, "I prayed to the Lord Jesus and asked him for a wagon for Christmas. I told Him that if He gave me one, I'd take Him for a ride in it."

## Children & Youth Happenings

**WOW**, it sure has been a busy year for Trinity Church's children and youth ministries including our "Outreach Vision Initiatives" such as Summer Camps, the Fall Fair, Kids Fun Fest and PD Day ice skating. A heartfelt THANKS to all who have supported and participated in the many children and youth programs/events in some way - by your prayers, financial support, 'hands-on' work, words of encouragement, being chaperones/leaders, Sunday School teachers, snack providers, and so on. 2009 has been an exciting time as we, with God's help, continued to reach out to and connect with the children and youth within our region as well as their families. And now an overview of some of the programs/events that have taken place or continue to take place:

- ◆ ...our mid-week Kids Club adventure that runs from October to April and includes Bible stories, drama, songs, DVD clips, games, special guests, field trips, and snack. On December 1<sup>st</sup> we had our last gathering for 2009 with a huge Christmas party where "kings" showed up with a gift for each child. We also visited the Celebration of Lights at Centennial Park. Kids Club is for children in Grades SK to 4. So please join us during our next time together on January 12, 2010 from 6:45 to 8:00pm.
- ◆ ...our Summer Camps with 354 children/youth campers attending during the month of July plus the many, many, many volunteer workers to ensure our campers remained safe during all the activities: Bible program with drama, swimming, scavenger hunt, games, 10pin bowling, ice skating, trip to Bluewater Fun Park, campfire, laser tag, crafts, time at Warwick Conservation Area, mini golf, beach volleyball, etc, etc, etc.
- ◆ ...our participation in the City of Sarnia's Kids Fun Fest held in Centennial Park on June 13<sup>th</sup>. During this community event, thousands of parents and children came to this park to enjoy the festivities which was held on a beautiful sunny day. We estimated that about 1500 people visited our site during the 6 hour period where our volunteers oversaw crafts, inflatables, games, and a free draw for a prize. In addition, our new 'Sowing Seeds' group did a super job of greeting visitors to our site and making them feel welcome. A new family joined our church as a result of our presence at Kids Fun Fest.
- ◆ ...our annual fun-filled Fall Fair held at the church on September 19<sup>th</sup> with lots of indoor and outdoor activities. We estimated that about 775 people enjoyed inflatables, bubbles, horse & wagon rides, crafts, foosball, air hockey, ping pong, riding scooters, 'train' rides, basketball free-throw, face painting, BBQ hot dogs for lunch, and so on. Translation: there were a lot of children and youth on our property that day. We have also had people come to worship with us on Sundays as a result of holding the Fall Fair.
- ◆ ... our Rainbows For All God's Children program that reaches out to those who are hurting due to separation, divorce, a traumatic situation or the death of a family member/close friend.
- ◆ ...our Friday Nights youth program has become an absolutely HUGE outreach in our community. So many youth now attend that we've lost count. What we do know is that there are somewhere between 250 and 300 people who receive, on a weekly basis, information about Friday Nights via email. If you want to help in some way, let me know. If you want more information about this exciting ministry and/or begin receiving the email updates, just ask via an email to youth@trinity.sarnia.net or via a phonecall to 519-542-9261 x25.
- ◆ ...our Sunday Nights youth program is for high school and college/university age students. We usually meet in homes both within the city and county AND we have great Bible-based discussions AND our weekly hosts are awesome!!
- ◆ ...our church's children had the opportunity to participate in their own program during the 2009 Ash Wednesday and Good Friday worship services.
- ◆ ...and then there are our Sunday programs held during the 9:45am and 10:00am worship services - Nursery care, Sunday School for children (up to Grade 4) and Youth Bible classes for those in Grades 5 to 12. Those who care for and instruct the children/youth each Sunday are part of an excellent team who desire to share the love of Jesus with others.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the selection of children/youth photos that are with this "Trinity Spirit" article. Merry Christmas.

*The Rev. Robert Roe, Associate Priest*



Day Camp at Warwick



Youth Leading Worship in Cayuga, Ontario



Snack Time



Canada's Wonderland



Beach Volleyball at Day Camp



Youth Tubing on the St. Clair River

## Letter to the editor

Upon reading our church bulletin my husband and I would like to respond to the request for some input for the "Trinity Spirit".

Last fall, after much thought & prayer we made the decision to join the family of Trinity Church. We have been very happy and more spiritually fulfilled than we had been in a long time. Attending church has always been important to us, but now it is even more so. We can see and feel the Holy Spirit in different friends we have met and appreciate the prayers and support from them in recent months.

Thank you to "Trinity" for making us feel at home and helping us grow in faith.

*Liz & Bill Baldock*

## Volleyball Angels

Tournament day arrives at 8:00 am. Already 6 games have been played and two points have been awarded to the teams who won. Trinity Angels Volleyball starts in mid September and we play five intense fun games of volleyball; learning who is on your team and trying to make your self the best you can be. Sometimes the games are grueling but you try to accomplish something.

I am the captain of Angels on Fire. Every Thursday night we play at one of three churches: Temple Baptist, a lovely hall; the Mission Church on East Street, or New Horizons on Capel. The teams consists of six to ten players who try their hardest to win all five games. You play for about an hour to hour and a quarter. There are two games scheduled, an early game at 6:45 pm or 8:15 pm for the late game.

The season runs until April or May. This year we only had to reschedule one game due to bad weather. We ended the season on time with no snow dates. We won on Thursday and had 6 games to play. We won three more games and made it to the semi-finals. The Missionary church team played a bit more skillfully and we were eliminated. The games were all close. I just wanted to acknowledge my team's efforts. God blessed us with no major injuries and a fun time was had. Thanks girls, great job!

*Submitted by Robbie Anderson*

## Trinity & St. James

At the request of the Reverend Richard Salt, Territorial Archdeacon, Trinity has been asked to participate in a congregational pairing process in Sarnia. Six Sarnia Anglican Churches are participating. The joining of congregations is to enhance the sustainability and overall health of the participating congregations. The pairings have been established between a congregation that is relatively fiscally sound and another congregation that is beginning to experience fiscal challenges and/or declining numbers.

As most of you know by now, Trinity has been paired with St. James and a written covenant outlining pairing goals has been developed by the clergy and wardens from both churches. A copy of the covenant has been placed in your church mailbox and is available from any of the clergy or church wardens.

On Sunday, May 3, 2009, church vestry meetings were held at both Trinity and St. James where the covenant was reviewed and discussed. A motion was brought forward by the church wardens to approve this covenant for a three year period commencing on June 1, 2009. The motion was approved at both church vestry meetings. Under this covenant, we have agreed on three main purposes as follows:

1. To bring hope, stability and new life to the people of God at St. James
2. To provide an opportunity for fulfillment for the people of Trinity as they share their resources and gifts they have received from the Lord
3. To help St. James discern its future ministry and mission

The detail of the covenant includes opportunities for leadership, program and activity sharing as well as investigating potential financial sharing opportunities. As the covenant has now been approved by both churches we will be moving into the implementation phase of the opportunities that have been identified.

This sharing agreement offers many possibilities for spiritual growth, learning and strengthening of personal faith. We pray that you embrace these opportunities with optimism, determination and hope at the individual and parish level.

*Graham Blenkhorn, Peoples Warden*

## SOS HOCKEY MISSION TRIP, FEBRUARY 2009

**E**ach one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

### **Dobrý den, jak se máš? (Good day, how are you?)**

In February of 2009 with help from Trinity Anglican, I went on my first mission trip. The mission was to the Czech Republic and was centred on the sport of hockey. The group I travelled with were called the Sons of Salvation and this was their fourth hockey mission trip to the Czech. The aim of the trip was to plant seeds in the hearts of the Czech people that will hopefully grow over time.

So some of you might be wondering; why the Czech Republic? With a population of 10.5 million, 38% of Czech people claimed to believe in God in a 2001 survey. 52% identified themselves as atheists. The mission was to share God's good news of salvation with these people who live in a spiritually dark country.

Your next question about the trip might be; what does hockey have to do with evangelizing? Well let me explain. When preaching the gospel to anyone, it can be difficult to make a strong connection. Using the common love of hockey enables us to break down communication barriers and give us that level of trust. Two of the four teams we played had played SOS teams in past years, and looked forward to being able to play again. The mission part of the hockey game came in the second intermission when one of our team members would give a testimonial (through a translator) in their dressing room. I think if the SOS hockey team walked into the dressing room of my Canadian rec league team there would be a lot of rolling eyes, sarcastic remarks, and rude laughter. I was very impressed at how attentive the Czech players were to listen to what we had to say. This alone can be counted a small victory. At the end of the week we invited all the teams with their wives/girlfriends to our place for dinner. The emphasis was always about making a friendly connection first, then sharing the gospel second. We emphasized that we do want to be their friend, even if they didn't commit to the Lord that night.

Finally, you might ask; so you played hockey, but what did you do when you weren't on the ice? Most of our time off the ice was spent running an English camp for three groups of kids; orphans, church youth, and other English campers from the local schools. The week we chose to be in the Czech Republic was during their March break equivalent. There were many activities throughout the three-day camp. These included baking chocolate chip cookies, Ultimate Frisbee and soccer in the snow, face painting, clown tricks, Twister, ping pong, air hockey, concerts performed by Unified (the church youth worship band), ice skating, floor ball, discussion groups, and lots of other fun activities. Each day a member of the ministry team gave a personal testimony. The themes that emerged were God's faithfulness, God's grace and God's love. Many of the campers were really touched by what was shared with them. As a testimony to this, Frank, one of the kids from P?estavlky, told us that he did not want to accept the gifts the Canadians were giving out at the conclusion of the camp because just our spending time with him was a gift.

Overall this experience was very positive for me, and also helped me to overcome some of my fears of sharing the word of God. Thanks to everyone who supported the trip with financial gifts and with prayer.

D?kuji (Thank you)

*Kyler Brouwer*

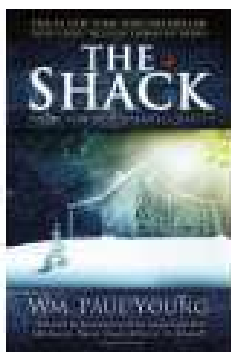


The conclusion of the English camp, after our floor ball game.

## Concerns Regarding “The Shack”

I very much enjoyed the overall story, which speaks of God's healing and goodness. Unfortunately, the author spends too much time indirectly discussing theology, changing the book from a good fictional story to one that redefines God based on the author's experience rather than what the Bible says. This differentiates it from allegories such as Pilgrim's Progress and The Chronicles of Narnia.

Through discussions with the three characters representing God, the author deconstructs what Mack was taught in seminary (by implication, traditional church teachings) and uses this book to redefine attributes of God and scriptural truths that he has not been able to accept or reconcile for himself. As well, I



find that he sets up extreme theological positions in order to make the “new revelation” even more appealing to the reader.

It is my contention that rather than seeking transformation based on God's truth, the author has transformed God into a god he can accept and identify with. I think the reason for the book's popularity is that it tames or ignores those truths that our sin nature finds offensive. Two examples of many: God's authority over His creation (including us) and God's holiness, which includes judgment and wrath for those who reject Him. I believe this book resonates with those in the Church who have dismissed the holiness of God and only want to discuss His grace and love. We can't truly understand His grace and love without a proper understanding of His holiness and righteousness first.

I find it very concerning that many have said that this book has helped them to understand the Trinity. There are a number of errors regarding the Trinity that are introduced. Examples: there is no authority in the Trinity; the Father bears the marks of the cross; and the Father and the Holy Spirit are portrayed as women.

The author has a very legalistic view of God, seeing Him as rigid and distant, and in response swings the

pendulum to the other extreme where God is not concerned about His holiness or our behavior. The truth is somewhere in the middle. When we fail to measure new revelation against scripture we endanger the foundation upon which our faith is built.

*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions*

**2 Timothy 4:3 ESV**

*Prayerfully submitted Claude Pelletier*

## The Passing Year

The January blues had us gripped in a trance  
But we whirled them away at the Wonderland dance.  
Shrove Tuesday's pancakes came thick and came fast  
Ash Wednesday starts Lent; it's a 40-day test.

By March all the men were set to Retreat,  
To have fifty guys talking, now that is a feat.  
To April and Easter, the high point of our year,  
By Jesus' blood slain we have nothing to fear.  
In May we're a hundred, let's have some tea,  
The ladies, and Ron, dress'd in all their finery.  
June is a bonus, the Bishop has come,  
A banquet, with banners, then a picnic for fun.

Summer is here; it's time for the camp,  
Rob and his helpers pray it's not damp.  
In August we know Richard's gone for a while,  
But Dave keeps things rollin' with inimitable style.  
September the fun fair and Esther mean work,  
The good folk at Trinity know not to shirk.  
The ladies are gathered for their special day,  
Robin's message inspires, they sing and they pray.  
In November the talk is whether to grow,  
We're led by the Spirit, that's how we'll know.  
The journey thro' Advent, and Christmas draws near,  
We sing praise and carols, perhaps shed a tear,  
For the infant low born, so long ago,  
Lives on in our hearts, surely you know.

*Mike Tanner*

## Winter Wonderland Dance

In the depths of a cold-clawed January, the Winter Wonderland Dinner Dance held at Trinity was a great success! Saturday Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 130 people put on their dancing shoes and made their way to Trinity Church for an evening of dining and dancing. Doors opened at 6 p.m. and revealed a room transformed with twinkling lights and ribbon, set off with an overhead kaleidoscope of Winter scenes. Pat Edwards served a delicious roast beef dinner with all the fixings, and a mouth-watering selection of pies for dessert (memo, next year bring more lemon meringue).



The D.J. from Sound Sensations cranked up the volume (but not too much), and just about everyone hit the dance floor to move to the beat. The music included tunes from the past 4 decades with a variety of artists ranging from The Beatles to Shania Twain. You could waltz, jive, twist or quickstep, or simply stand and shake your thing. How often do adults get the chance to do the chicken dance and the locomotion in one



night! It seems that some of us have taken lessons, there were some pretty awesome dancers weaving their way across the floor. Judging from their expressions, everyone had a great time chasing away their winter blues, especially those lucky door prize winners!



This year we had awesome prizes donated from individuals and local businesses; A&P, Shoppers' Drug Mart, Degroots Nurseries, Hogan's Pharmacy, The British Shop, Olive's Fine Dining, Covers, Cloud Nine, and Stokes Inland, to name a few. Thanks also to the youth group volunteers who sold pop.

By 11pm, the crowd thinned, and those with energy left put their dancing shoes away, and miraculously changed the room back for Sunday morning. All in all it was a great evening to share with family and friends, and it will be back again next year!

See you there,  
*Kate Allison*  
Chairperson of Gathered Mission



## Trinity Spirit 2010

**T**he new Trinity Spirit arrived almost a year ago, but despite the best of intentions the second issue arrives almost a year later. This newsletter is intended to tell the story and the mission of the people at Trinity. And make no mistake, there is a lot happening at this church. We feature accounts of mission trips, youth camps and a very active youth ministry and outreach, plus the fun activities of dances, sports and dining and the celebration of our centennial. This is **your** story, and witness. There will be 3 editions in 2010, May, September and December. There will be a hard copy, plus an e mail version for those who subscribe, and it is also available on the website. We are looking for short testimony, stories about Trinity people and activities, humour, small ads etc. Be creative, imaginative and be led by the Spirit.

*Editor* Mike Tanner  
*Compositor* Kathy Witheridge  
*Board* Mary Blenkhorn, Sheila Hewett

### Elevator Pitch

**F**or those of you for whom this is a new term, an 'elevator pitch' is an opportunity to sell an idea, a project or a concept in about 30 seconds. Imagine the chance situation where you might be occupying an elevator with your company CEO, a potential investor or person of consequence, and instead of an uncomfortable silence, you pitch your 'big idea' en route to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. The key is to be prepared with your thoughts and presentation so that you can make it succinctly and effectively at the drop of a hat. (Check it out on You Tube).

I was reminded of this recently, when at a dinner gathering the topic turned to religion, and I quickly found myself in a minority of one defending the Christian Faith. In these situations it is difficult to know whether to defend the Faith against the skeptics' arguments for evolution and science, or to simply tell your own story. In these 'elevator moments', it helps to have a response mentally prepared, and to be confident in your own beliefs.

If Jesus had an elevator pitch it might have been 'Who do you say I am'? (Mt 16: 15-16)...or 'I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed from death to life' (Jn 5:24). At any event, one needs to be led by the Holy Spirit, and to use the opportunity to not only plant seeds but also to be a faithful witness.

As Christmas approaches and the world pauses to reflect on the deeper meaning of the season beyond rabid consumerism and sentimentality, be prepared, (1Peter 3:15). Jesus **is** the Reason for the Season, are you ready to make the pitch to an unbelieving world?

*Mike Tanner*

### Contract

**T**he McDonalds Restaurant sales rep visits the local Bishop with a proposal: "McDonalds is prepared to donate ten million dollars to the church if you change the text to 'Give us this day our daily burger'."

The Bishop ponders this but replies, "I'm sorry, but despite your generous offer, I don't think I could get approval to change the Holy Text."

The McDonalds rep then decides to visit the Archbishop with the proposal, "My company is prepared to donate fifty million dollars to the church if you will change the text to 'Give us this day our daily burger'."

After much deliberation, the Archbishop calls together his Bishops and announces, "I have some good news and some bad news: the good news is that we are about to become the beneficiaries of a very generous donation. The bad news is that we will have to relinquish the Wonder Bread contract."

## Trinity Men's Day 2009

The second annual Men's day at Trinity drew 50 men, ostensibly to learn more about relationships, but the reasons for attending varied from desiring fellowship with men, supporting men's ministry to just plain curiosity, (strangely no one volunteered that their wife figured in their decision). The day started with breakfast, organized by Chris West and the ladies of the church who fed us with a mouth watering selection of breakfast casseroles, muffins and fruit.

After satiating our appetites, Carlo and his ensemble, Glyn, Darwin, Dave, Rob and Josh led a rousing selection of Praise songs to begin the first session. Our very capable facilitator Ric introduced the guest speaker, Rev Rich Jones from the Church of the Epiphany in Woodstock. The focus of the day was relationships; our relationship with God, our family and the church. The format of the day was presentation, Testimony and small group discussion. Rich talked passionately about right relationship starting with Jesus, and cited experiences in his own life and ministry. Sandy, John and Scott each gave a testimony focusing on relationships in their own family leading to a closer Christian walk. It is uncommonly difficult for men to share their feelings and experiences, but the small group discussion format, (we were seated at tables of 5/6 men for the Day), encouraged genuine sharing, and many present cited this as the high point of the day. A catered lunch was welcome, and the celebration of Eucharist rounded off the day.

Did we leave experts in relationships? I think not; after all, we are still men. Did we set ourselves some goals? Most certainly. Was the Holy Spirit present in our gathering? How else would 50 Anglican men gather for a Retreat Day in March. We were all blessed by taking the opportunity to grow in fellowship and community, and as one fellow remarked, 'God is a bin diver, he sees me as a treasure he has a use for'.

*Mike Tanner*

## Men's Sailing Day



Archie's Trimaran

It was one of the few good days in the early summer 2009 when the Trinity power punks and rag baggers took to the water for an afternoon of fellowship and discussing issues of the day. Thanks to the Trinity men who donated their power and sail boats for the event. There were between 20 to 30 men who enjoyed an afternoon on the water with one another's company. One of the best parts of the day was the barbeque, men like to eat!

The most unusual part of the day was the fireworks display by Bill Cafazzo, getting the attention of all the dogs in the neighbourhood. A good time was had by all and we got to catch up on what is happening in one another's busy lives. With a prayer and a little planning hopefully the event can be repeated in 2010

Archie Kerr



Men's Après-Sail BBQ

## December Services

Sunday December 7th  
8:30am Chapel (Traditional)  
9:45am Worship Centre (Contemporary)  
10:00am Chapel (Traditional)

Sunday December 13th  
8:30am Chapel (Traditional)  
9:45am Worship Centre (Contemporary)  
10:00am Chapel (Traditional)

Sunday December 20th  
8:30 a.m. holy communion  
10:00 Service of Lessons and Carols  
followed by lunch and a Christmas Party

Christmas Eve  
7:00 p.m. Holy Communion  
10:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Christmas Day  
10:30 a.m. Family Service

