



TRINITY NEWS

April 2007

TRINITY NEWS

A WORLD PREMIERE AT TRINITY

A New Look

It is spring and *Trinity News* is coming to you in living colour.

Recently, Trinity replaced its “old” photocopier with a new and very exciting one. Now the staff are linked to the copier from their office computers via the network. It prints in “living” colour and is cheaper to run and lease than our old one.



Due to these changes, *Trinity News* will be printed “in house”. To

keep our *TN* costs within budget however we are making two changes: we will only use colour on a maximum of four pages per issue and, as of the May issue, *Trinity News* will no longer be mailed to every family.

We are returning to the “old-fashioned” approach of delivery by hand. *TN* will still have a personal label and will be available for pick up following worship on designated Sundays. You will also be asked to pick up copies for those who are not in worship on that Sunday.

Trinity News can be sent to you as an email attachment or downloaded from our church website (www.tuckitchener.org).



For those who are willing to receive *TN* by email, we ask that you email Alan Whitmore at trinitynews@tuckitchener.org. Enter “TN subscription” in the subject line and include the email address to which you wish your family copy sent. (We have multiple email addresses for a number of people, some out of date, so the desired “address” is very important.)

Stand by Me!

April 20 – 22 will be a busy “long-weekend” for Trinity. Not only do we have the Congregational Dinner on Saturday evening, but we are also hosting well-known African-American music educator, composer, and music maker, Stephen M. Lee.



Stephen has just finished composing ***Stand by Me!***, a 1 1/2 hour musical presentation that incorporates music, instrumentalists, readers, and a participating audience. Stephen

best describes his own work:

Stand by Me!, a celebration of African-American song, blends scholarly research with the soul-filled singing of African-American Spirituals and Black Gospel Music. A prose narrative, woven throughout *Stand by Me!*, creatively explores the historical roots of African-American Spirituals and Black Gospel Music. *Stand by Me!* is both informative and uplifting, inspiring listeners to actively celebrate the genius of African-American song.

Excerpts of *Stand by Me!* were first performed on November 17, 2005 in Orlando, Florida at the American Music Therapy Association’s national convention. Lee, composer and board certified music therapist, was asked to share music for the opening of the conference that would address the “human response” to the Katrina/Rita disasters. Lee, a resident of New Orleans, prior to Katrina, states, “I wanted to create something that would draw upon the genius of the African-American Spiritual and that would help the music therapy community, nationwide, to stand in solidarity with the gulf coast and Texas regions.” He further states, “Ultimately, I wanted to create a composition that would provide a space for many of us to grieve and to express our grief in community. Although

(cont'd on pg. 5)



MINISTER'S COMMENTS

from the Rev. Jack Paleczny

We are standing on the brink!

Two very significant conversations are happening now in the United Church.

One conversation is about the viability of congregations. *The Observer* outlines the challenges and choices that many are facing. A number of our neighbouring congregations are feeling those same issues and have invited us into a dialogue about the shape and the future of the United Church in Waterloo Region. We have so many loving church families and so many wonderful ministries that need to be nurtured through a transition in order that all may survive and thrive, even if not in the present form.

Another conversation has been initiated by the United Church in its outreach to the young adults of society who are experiencing spiritual questions and have no place to explore the answers. Many in the 30 – 45 age bracket have indicated that a church like the United Church may be what they are looking for, as long as we are able to show our faith in action *and* share their attitude of searching and discovery rather than thinking that we can give them

pat answers. Through our commitment to *Out of the Cold* and through the *Living the Questions* series, Trinity has demonstrated that we are that kind of community!

The challenge we face is this: **who** will be part of these conversations! We need members of Trinity to be involved in the conversation with our neighbours about the future of the United Church in Waterloo Region and others to help us prepare for and genuinely welcome those who come to us to explore faith questions. Both require passion and energy.

So, here we are on the brink. Will we hesitate, letting this opportunity pass us by? Or will we dive in and swim, engaging in the most challenging time the United Church has faced in its eighty-one year history? Will we cling to what we have? Or will we provide the leadership and faith that the Church needs to make this a moment of grace?

Here is the invitation addressed to each one: ***come, stand at the edge of the brink, link arms with the leaders of Trinity ... and jump!***

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OUR STORIES (1905-2006)



- 1 hour DVD
- the history of our church family
- filmed on location
- interviews with Rev. Dr. Frank Morgan and many others
- opening of the time capsule

Available from the church office or at coffee hour on Sundays.

Cost: \$10

KITCHENER TO KENYA

Time is really passing very quickly for me now, and in fact I am waiting to catch a bus which will take me to Nairobi where I will be meeting my mother. She is coming for a two-week visit, and Noel and I are very excited to welcome her to Kenya and particularly to Ugunja. I realize that January and February slipped by without much news from me, so I want to make sure I just get out a short tidbit of what I've been up to. With only a few months to go, and still so much we want to see happen, my days and nights have been pretty full.

I've started to teach a few biology classes at the high school. The school is a bit short on staff and also my presence is helping to strengthen the connection between the high school and the technical institute. So I find myself in the grade 9 and 10 classrooms twice a week. Each class has nearly 70 students crowded into a fairly barren room. The students have desks (although in the grade 9 class three often sit at a desk meant for two, and more often than not, the teacher's table at the front has been borrowed for a desk!). In the small school library, there are 6 textbooks for the grade 9 class and but 1 for the grade 10 class (you do the math!). There is no electricity - which means no handouts, no overheads etc. etc. So, welcome to notetaking 101. I try to be creative in my approach, but I still have to spend lots of time doing "chalk and talk" so that students have decent notes to study from!!! Oh, another fun experience is figuring out how to give grade 10 students good hands-on time with microscopes, when the school has only 2! (but then, at least there are microscopes). So it is an interesting experience, and I have to say, a pleasure to teach students who really value the chance to be receiving a secondary school education.

Still the problem remains, what next? The youth really have very few prospects following school (whether it be grade 8 or grade 12, depending on their families' financial situation). Therefore, at NYATI, we hope to partner with the high school to offer skills training to the students. After they write their final exam (a very big deal here, on which many future prospects lie) they would have some practical skills to help them become contributing members to the community, which in turn will help to bring up the local economy.

Submitted By Katherine Bitzer

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Have you noticed in the last few Sundays as our worship service ends that we are remaining in the Sanctuary longer instead of getting up to leave, either to coffee in the Fellowship Hall or to the Narthex? Some of us are just sitting quietly. Others are turning around to talk to neighbors. But that's not new. We have always done that. But recently we seem to be doing more. I was wondering why that was. My sense is that we are discussing the impact of what we have been experiencing in our services - *Living the Questions*, an approach that is radically different in format and content from what we have been accustomed. For some it has been quite exciting but for others it has been disquieting and upsetting. The old familiar practices give us a feeling of comfort. It is what we know.

Our services begin very differently now. What could be more dramatic than having a large screen in the choir loft and no choir there? Before the service formally begins there appears on the screen an advertisement for the Church; pictures of our building past and present, of events like the renewal of the cornerstone which tie the years gone by to the present and of the many faces of our congregations. It is a visual reminder of our history as a church community; who we are and what we are about.

And the music; it is strange not to hear the organ in all its majesty – an instrument so closely associated with the church and our worship services. Yet the grand piano, which Alan Whitmore and Jennifer Spaulding have played so capably, provides a sensitive contrast. It has been especially enjoyable to have the choir among us, to have those fine, well-trained voices join us as part of the congregation throughout the service. The introduction of the three hymns at the beginning of the service by Alan, Jennifer and Chad Spaulding has helped me focus on the "question of the day". I have found myself paying more attention to the words of the hymns than I think I have in the past.

The weekly Questions have exposed me to a variety of speakers with many different perspectives – more so than I usually get in a traditionally presented sermon. The personal examples they provide in trying to answer the questions encourages me to look at my own life. The questions are challenging. Some of them I understand. Some I don't. Some of the presentations are better than others but all seem to stimulate me to examine my theology and my beliefs, disquieting as that can be. Then, to bring

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FOUR CHURCHES PROJECT

An Update

There are encouraging signs that the Four Churches Project Working Group will be able to assure the local consulting team (GSP GROUP) that all but \$12,000 of the \$130,000 needed to fund a Four Phase Assets/Needs Research and Feasibility Study has been raised.

A significant turning point was a presentation by Nigel Motts, a member of our Council, to the City of Kitchener's Economic Development Committee on Feb. 5. The Project asked for a contribution from the City of \$35,000 towards the cost of the study. The grant application was subsequently approved conditionally on Monday Feb.26.

On Wed., March 14, the Project Working Group stressed the urgent need for GSP GROUP to resume work and complete the study. To this end, and at the suggestion of the St. Peter's Lutheran representative, it was agreed to ask each of the participating churches to lend the Project one-quarter of the \$12 000. As of Friday, March 23 we have learned, unofficially, that Trinity will lend the project \$2,400 and St. Andrew's \$3,000 to be repaid once that sum of \$12,000 has been raised elsewhere.

Zion United, St. Peter's Lutheran, St. Andrew's Presbyterian and Trinity United have a combined membership of about 4500 and a heritage of over 150 years of stability, permanence and involvement in Kitchener's downtown life and community. They have contributed with their finances, their facilities, their influence and their time. This coalition of churches hired GSP Group to identify the potential uses /redevelopment of the churches' physical assets (land/buildings) together with, perhaps, five adjacent properties; and to determine the financial viability of such an undertaking. The potential exists for these properties to be developed, put to new uses, and generate new sources of revenues which will both sustain these churches and enable them to maintain and expand their contributions to the life of Kitchener's Downtown.

In 2004, budding architects from the U of W. School of Architecture displayed (in our Fellowship Hall, at St. Andrew's and St. Peter's and at the Rotunda of City Hall) models of the vision that students had of such a transformation. That design competition invited members of the four churches to visualize what possibilities there

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LATTITUDES FESTIVAL

Latitudes joins the global community

Things have been quiet on the Latitudes front, and I suspect a few people are wondering what is happening with the festival. Will it happen a second year? If so, how? In what form?

I have been preoccupied with these questions over the past several months, since the early stages of my pregnancy. With our baby due mid-May, I knew my limitations if the festival was to happen as part of the Tapestry series of multicultural events in June. I could not steer a festival from beginning to end, and there was no one else on the organizing committee who could commit the overwhelming amount of time and effort needed to pull off an event of the same calibre as our first in 2006.

So, I went looking. Looking for a way to make the festival happen – because I suspected if it didn't happen a second year, it would never happen again.

I approached Jennifer O'Connor, organizer of the KW Multicultural Festival, after Myrta Rivera kindly offered help through the Multicultural Centre, during the men's turkey dinner before Christmas. I asked Jennifer if her festival would allow us to be part of their 40th anniversary celebrations in Victoria Park on June 23-24 this year.

Her answer was an enthusiastic "Yes!"

How does this affect Latitudes?

It allows us access to a predominantly multicultural audience, with modest funds. Our festival goes gain access to a wonderful environment that includes music, dance, food and celebration of culture.

How does this affect Trinity, especially in light of the funding approved for the festival? Trinity's role in making Latitudes happen is highlighted at an event that draws up to 60,000 people over the weekend. Trinity, as our main sponsor, retains a high profile as a cornerstone of the downtown core. While the festival will not be in the church building, a much larger number of people will see that the church is playing an important role in the community, and the majority of those people will be members of the multicultural community.

(cont'd on pg. 6)

World Premiere (cont'd from pg. 1)

Stand by Me! was my individual faith-filled response to the chaos of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it has become much more than an individual response. There are universal themes of suffering, loss, hope, and faith embedded in *Stand by Me!* that anyone who is in the midst of life's struggles (the marginalized, the homeless, the working poor, anyone who is grieving) can sing with conviction, "When the storms of life are raging, stand by me."

Trinity's Director of Music Ministry, Alan Whitmore, first met Stephen at the annual conference of The Hymn Society in the US and Canada over 12 years ago. In 1998, Alan asked Stephen to be part of an editorial development group for the music resource, *Spirit, Anew!*, published by Wood Lake Books. Since that time Alan has just been waiting for a time to further collaborate with this remarkable musician.

Stephen heard of the wonderful CD jointly presented by Dan Damon and the Chancel Choir and wondered if the choir would be interested in a similar project. Without even consulting the choir, Alan gave a tentative "yes". (He did consult the choir and received their enthusiastic approval soon thereafter.)

Another interesting turn of events took place when Alan was talking with Earl McCluskie, a friend of Trinity and the recording engineer for so many of our recordings. Earl wondered if the project would be enriched with additional musical forces. He suggested Alan talk with Henry Riggan, one of the music team at Kitchener Church of God.

Henry was most enthusiastic and so more than a dozen singers and instrumentalists from that church will join us in the recording sessions and the presentation on Sunday, April 22. We have had two rehearsals with these wonderful people and their presence has been a real blessing to the project. Their open Christian spirits and understanding of the music genre are truly a gift.

April 21 and 22 promise to be exciting days and you are invited to be part of this excitement. On the Saturday, we will be recording the work in our sanctuary. Stephen is calling this event an "Informance" —a performance that informs. You are welcome to come to these recording sessions, morning and afternoon. You are also welcome to participate in the recordings as part of the assembled people — the more the better. The audience is invited and expected to participate. If you are interested in being part of the recording session on April 21, please contact Alan

at the church office, so that he knows how many are coming.

Sunday, April 22, Stephen will be part of our morning worship and then we will present the World Premiere of *Stand by Me!* It will be an exciting time. Plan to be with us. The premiere begins at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Tickets, \$10 per person with a \$25 family maximum, will be on sale following worship beginning April 1.

CD orders will also be taken. While the full price for the CD will be \$20, a pre-release price of \$15 will be given to anyone who orders and pays for their CD(s) by the end of April 22. On April 23, the cost will be full price. Order now! It will be a wonderful gift for yourself and for others.

Further on Stephen... he is married to a remarkable person, Rita and has three wonderful children, Stephen Michael, Christopher, and Renée. They currently reside in Douglasville, GA. The five of them, plus Stephen's mother, will be with us for this remarkable event. Following the world premier and recording of *Stand by Me!*, the Lees will travel to Loyola University, New Orleans for the Louisiana premier on Sunday, April 29, 2007.

Annual Congregational dinner

April 21st, 2007

Mud huts and laptops - the paradox of Africa, and the experience of Trinity's two volunteers, Katherine Bitzer and Noël Belcourt! Last year's congregational supper provided generous support to our Candidate for Ministry, Andrea Johnston. This year you are invited to support the projects of our young people in Kenya.

Last December, Noël sent a seven page "Christmas Gift Ideas List for Those Most in Need" which ranged from \$2.50 for seven computer lessons to \$4,000 for the construction of a classroom for grade 6 students. Through your donations at the dinner, Trinity can make a difference. The Volunteer Committee encourages you to donate generously to a community where resources are minimal - but hope abounds.

An Invitation was sent out in the previous edition of the Trinity News and now is your chance to sign up to attend. Please call the office to reserve your place. Sign up sheets will also be available after worship. Where there is food, there you will find Trinity.

Barbara Bitzer

Latitudes Festival (cont'd from pg. 4)

I understand there may be concerns that Trinity is committing this money to an unproven event, but I strongly believe this plan for the festival (at this point, these plans are just for 2007) fits tightly with Trinity's mandate to increase outreach to the community.

Latitudes will be part of a huge event that has survived for 40 years in Kitchener, a record our festival views with envy and to which we aspire. We will still partner with community groups to provide a different take on the telling of stories.

In short, the second Latitudes Storytelling Festival will happen in Victoria Park, instead of the Trinity church building. It will happen in one venue, instead of eight, and over two days, instead of one.

I must take this opportunity to thank Trinity for the generous support we have received; the festival would not, I stress, happen without it.

If anyone is interested in taking part in this event, help is needed at all levels. Please contact me at 519-584-1758 or livingbreath@hotmail.com.

Submitted by L.A. Livingston

A View from the Pew (cont'd from pg. 3)

closure, the Commissioning and the Benediction always direct me to receive the message of the Question and to go out into the world and live it. As I sit down in my pew again, the delicate and sensitive playing of Alan and Jennifer in the postludes makes a deep impression - each note having an impact, creating a mood of continuing contemplation and giving hope to a serenity of the mind. Let the peace of God surround us all.

Submitted by Richard Smale

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Four Churches Project (cont'd from pg. 4)

are for redevelopment. The feasibility study is crucial because it will examine, in four phases, the practicability of our "dreaming".

The Four Churches Project, at this stage, is still a vision-to-be-tested as to its potential financial viability. The study outcome may or may not confirm that viability.

Trinity News will publish updates as they are received. For more details, contact Nigel Motts, Carl Weldon, or Ken Motts

In Spring a young man's fancy turns to luv...
...at Trinity in spring the congregation's fancy turns to

OPPORTUNITY SALE.

The dates have been set

- Friday May 4 — 2:00 p.m. until 5.30 p.m.
- Saturday May 5 — 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

This is the Spring and Summer sale so donations are restricted to these seasonal items.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Tues. May 1st — Thurs. May 3rd.

Volunteers will be needed for sorting on those dates
and especially on the sale dates.

This is YOUR Opportunity to come and see and serve.



FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Marguerite Johnston, Chair

Coffee, Tea and Energy!

What's new at Council, you ask? *Emerging Spirit* is new! At Council in March we took a closer look at "Living the Welcome", the next phase of *Emerging Spirit*. Half of our Agenda was devoted to a series of updates, from Roy, Jack and from me, on the March 9th and 10th event at Three Willows in Guelph, an event designed to 'light a fire' in the spirit of United Church congregations who are concerned about becoming more welcoming. These updates sparked some lively conversation about steps that we might take as a congregation to become more welcoming to those who might visit with us, whether they are young, old, or somewhere in-between. And the challenge was issued – what about inviting both members and visitors alike to relax with a cup of coffee or tea during Sunday morning services? These days, people tend to arrive at all sorts of functions bearing a "roll-up-the-rim" cup – that's one thing that makes us comfortable. So Council agreed that this was one step, the first of many, which we can take to

make our church less intimidating and more welcoming.

What's next? Still in the planning stage is a Saturday morning workshop where Jack and Roy and I can pass along some of the learnings from our workshop in Guelph to a group of Trinity people. Joining the core *Emerging Spirit* group is Donna-Jean Heard. Together, the four of us will be working to draw out ideas from the congregation on how to live this program within Trinity. As always, this group is open to anyone at Trinity with a dream, a passion, and a talent for this work.

Your feedback is critical to this process of change. If you have suggestions of your own that you'd like to make, but can't see your way clear to attending any meetings, or if workshops just aren't in the cards for you, then send off a quick email, or give one of us a call – let us know how you feel, both when we're on the right track, and when you think we need to do more work around some of the ideas put in place.

TRINITY & NEW CANADIANS

Trinity has for many years reached out to refugees and New Canadians. We have sponsored several families ourselves and in later years we assisted other churches in sponsoring families. We did not have the resources either financially or in terms of man power to do it alone. We became known across Canada as a church who cared for these people, and United Churches in Nova Scotia and B.C. have asked for our help in assisting families resettle in Kitchener.

this woman the \$350 to add to the \$200 she had saved. The woman had saved this \$200 while living on \$446 a month from Ontario Works!

The woman at the agency was overwhelmed by the generosity and the speed with which this family was helped by the people of Trinity. She described the woman as someone who has faced more adversity and hardship than most of us ever will. She described her as strong, brave, persistent and humble.

The S.C. & O Committee see this woman from Zimbabwe as one whom God brought to the doors of Trinity where He knew she would get the help she needed. The help being \$350 to enable her to get the card that would make her life in Canada just a little bit easier.

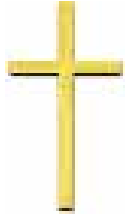
Submitted By Gail Summers

In February, a receptionist at the Multicultural Centre received a phone call from an agency across the street from Trinity, inquiring if the M.C.C. could assist a young woman get her Permanent Resident Card. This card is for people who have been granted permanent residence in Canada. The Centre does not have the funding to help in this way. The receptionist, who as it happens doesn't usually work that day, knew of Trinity's Outreach in that area and got hold of the Social Concern and Outreach Committee members. Upon hearing the story of this very young mother, whose health is not good, and the health of an infant daughter who is battling a congenital heart condition, the committee unanimously voted to loan/give

Give our photocopier a name!

The winner of the "Name Our Copier" contest will receive a free coffee (or soft drink) and donut at Tim's, courtesy of the *TN* staff.

Entry deadline is April 15.



THE CHURCH FAMILY

DECEASED

Ruth E. Dononue

March 17, 2007

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship in the Chapel
April 6	11:00 a.m.	Good Friday Service – special presentation of the Passion story according to St. Luke, told by Rev. Roy Holton, with music by the Chancel Choir
April 7	10:15 a.m.	Easter Celebration – Service of Holy Communion
April 21 & 22		“Stand by Me!” weekend events
April 30		Last “Out of the Cold” evening this term
May 4 & 5		Opportunity Sale
May 24 - 26		Hamilton Conference at the University of Guelph
May 26	4:00 p.m.	“New Ministries Service” - admission of Rev. Jack Paleczny into Ordered Ministry in the United Church of Canada
May 27	10:15 a.m.	Pentecost - Morning Worship
June 3	10:15 a.m.	Trinity Sunday - Service of Holy Communion
June 10	10:15 a.m.	Children/Youth Musical “Malice in the Palace”
June 17	10:15 a.m.	Worship and Congregational Picnic at Steckle Farm
June 24	10:15 a.m.	Morning Worship - Farewell to Rev. Roy Holton

Trinity Congregational Dinner

Saturday, April 21 5:30 p.m.

Entertainment by the Almada Family

Proceeds to Ugunja Community Resource Centre

(Katherine Bitzer & Noël Belcourt)

Sign up sheets available on April 1, 8, 15 at Coffee Hour
or in the church office

TRINITY NEWS

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by

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