



Trinitopics & Church Announcements



To Grow in Faith, Fellowship & Service Through Christ Jesus
9 ~ Thursday, April 22nd, 2021

Rev. Doug Neufeld
Office: Closed at this time
Phone: 204 729-1946
E Mail: rev.doug@wcgwave.ca
Urgent needs: Cell 204 441-8140



Trinity Office ~ Closed at this time
Phone: 204 728-4796
E Mail: trinityucbdn@wcgwave.ca
Website: www.trinitybrandon.ca

News from the Board

I hope that this note finds you safe and healthy.

We have discussed at the board table a plan for resuming in person services and we feel that we would like to put out a timeline, subject to provincial and federal regulations regarding Covid-19. We feel that if we can resume, a September date is very much doable. This is the goal that the Board is working on right now, but we may need to adjust due to restrictions. We feel it is important to have something to look forward to and have plans and a timeline in place to resume.

Jason Splett Board Chair

it is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.

NELSON MANDELA

Why are trees very forgiving?
Because in the Fall they
"Let It Go"
and in the Spring they
"Turn over a New Leaf".

*Join us for Virtual Fellowship Sunday
Mornings at 11 am
Rev. Doug will have ZOOM link with
Sunday service info.*



If you know someone, or yourself, who would like a care call from Rev. Neufeld; call 204-441-8140

Please be sure to call or e-mail Marlane Wilson, with any reports of folks in hospital or needing some contact. 204 729-8574 or marlane.w@yahoo.com

Trinity Outreach & Pastoral Care

Outreach & Pastoral Care Committees are offering help to our church friends with making Covid vaccine appointments and giving rides to Brandon appointments.

Please contact:

Linda Friesen 204 728-2305
lindadrifriesen@gmail.com

Connie Haigh 204 725-2676
Darlynn Smith 204 728-7713





Samaritan House opens renovated shelter

Samaritan House Ministries communications and fundraising specialist Shannon Saltarelli records executive director Barbara McNish as she announces that the charity's newly renovated Safe and Warm shelter will be open on Friday evening. Brandon East MLA Len Isleifson was also on hand for this announcement, since McNish wanted to personally thank him and the Progressive Conservative government for earmarking \$172,000 for Samaritan House in their 2021-22 budget. (Kyle Darbyson/The Brandon Sun)

Samaritan House Ministries officially opened their newly renovated Safe and Warm shelter at 7 p.m. Friday (April 16th), boasting sleeping spaces that range from 13 to 24 beds. The local charity was forced to cut the number of shelter beds from 25 to 13 when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, in order to establish proper physical distancing for their clients. Members of Samaritan House started renovations last fall in order to bring the number of beds back up to 25 without violating public health guidelines. While the shelter itself has been closed since March 31 — the end of their usual winter season — the organization has used the past couple of weeks to finish renovations, complete a deep clean and provide an opportunity for staff training. "We're not quite done on renos, but we've got to a place where, (based on) the renos that we've done, we can open the Safe and Warm shelter tonight," Samaritan House Ministries executive director Barbara McNish said Friday. Brandon East MLA Len Isleifson was also present at Samaritan House on Friday for this announcement, since his Progressive Conservative government earmarked \$172,000 in their upcoming budget for Samaritan House. This will allow the charity to run their Safe and Warm shelter year-round, instead of closing from April to October.

McNish held back tears as she personally thanked Isleifson and his colleagues Friday, since establishing a year-round shelter has been an ambition of staff for years. "It means the world to Samaritan House, it means the world to me and our staff, it means the world to our community and the people that we serve here," she said. "So thank you on behalf of myself, the board and Samaritan House Ministries and the Safe and Warm shelter." McNish also took some time Friday to thank members of the community who financially supported them throughout this transitional period, from anonymous donors to big local businesses. However, she clarified Samaritan House is still looking for donations to help pay for the shelter expansion, their food bank program and various other initiatives.

Anyone interested in making a donation can contact McNish directly by emailing her at exec@samaritanhouse.net



The **Outreach Committee** submitted this article which originally came out in the Brandon Sun on April 17th, 2021.

Thank you for your continued support for this important ministry in our community.

From CE: There are several copies of BROADVIEW at the Church that are available for anyone who would like to check out our United Church Publication.

If you are interested please contact:

Lois Riley (lriley@mts.net or 728-3443)
and a copy can be dropped in your mail box.



Date set for Trinity Vote on Becoming an Affirming Ministry

The Official Board has taken the next step in the process to become an Affirming Ministry. At the recommendation of the Equity & Diversity Committee, the Board passed a motion at their regular meeting on April 13, 2021 ***That Trinity United Church conduct a vote on Sunday September 26th, 2021 on becoming an Affirming Ministry.*** This date is three years and one day since Trinity held an exploratory meeting in the fall of 2018 to discuss the idea of becoming affirming and to take a measure of interest which led to the creation of the Equity & Diversity Committee.

During the three years the Equity & Diversity Committee has collaborated with church leadership and the congregation in learning and discernment through hearing personal stories that demonstrate the need for becoming affirming, reflecting on modern theological understandings of scripture that have been used to discriminate, hearing from Affirming Ministries about the impact of their decision, and learning about the social justice aspects of why becoming Affirming is important. The Committee has also guided the development of a new **Vision Statement** and **Marriage Policy** that meet the specific requirements of Affirm United. These documents were approved by the Trinity congregation at the Annual General Meeting held on February 21, 2021. The Committee also developed an **Action Plan**, approved by Affirm United, that will come into effect upon successful vote to become Affirming.

Given the realities of the Covid-19 pandemic, the format of the vote on September 26, 2021 remains to be determined. Hopefully, health regulations will allow for in-person services

(even on a limited basis) by that time, however, if this is not possible, the meeting and the vote will be conducted via Zoom/telephone. Information and instructions will be sent out in a timely manner. Over a dozen United Churches across Canada have voted and/or celebrated virtually on becoming Affirming during the pandemic as they felt it was time to proceed.

In the meantime, Equity & Diversity will continue to lead reflection and discernment to learn more about what it means to be Affirming and why it is important. Even in the pandemic we are called to continue loving others, to doing good, and to honour and respect everyone as children of God.

Whatever your perspective, we invite you to join the conversation.



Affirming Ministries are congregations and other ministries within the United Church that work toward the healing and wholeness of creation—challenging bias and discrimination based on appearance, culture, class, gender or age; working to end racism; promoting economic justice; increasing accessibility; or caring for the planet. Affirming Ministries also publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. They continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation. Just as God rejoices in the goodness and diversity of creation, so too Affirming Ministries honour and celebrate diversity.

(Source: Open Hearts, pg. 1)

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes.
Excellent condition, \$200 or best offer.

No longer needed; got married; wife knows everything.

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

FREE PUPPIES: Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd. Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.



When Being Born with Light Skin is Dangerous **Few Tanzanians with albinism live beyond the age of 40.**

When Ikponwosa Ero was five years old, she couldn't walk down the street without being taunted for having albinism, a genetic condition that results in lack of pigmentation in skin, eyes, and hair. Children would taunt her with rude songs and pull her hair. When she told teachers she couldn't see well (a condition common for people with albinism), they accused her of lying.

Today, Ero, a lawyer, advocates for people with albinism. In 2015, the United Nations appointed her as the first Independent Expert on the subject. Ero's priority is to end brutal attacks against people with albinism. More than 600 attacks have taken place in 26 African countries since 2007; two-thirds of the victims are children.

Being born with light skin is particularly dangerous in Tanzania, where 1 in 1,400 people have albinism. Few of these people live beyond the age of 40, not only because of high rates of cancer but also because of belief systems.

Some belief systems portray people with albinism as magical. As a result, there is a lucrative trade in their body parts, which are believed to hold special power.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation even worse because people can't get to medical appointments or purchase sunscreen. In some communities, people with albinism are blamed for the outbreak of the pandemic.

That's why your generosity through Mission & Service is supporting the Morogoro Women's Training Centre to host seminars for young Tanzanian women with albinism. Topics like disability rights, legal protection, and entrepreneurship will be covered.

"The seminars are really important because they will not only provide training and give women a greater sense of their rights but also an opportunity to share experiences and talk about how their condition and the stigma around it affects them," says Wendy Gichuru, the United Church's program coordinator for Africa and the Middle East.

Your *Mission & Service* gifts support a variety of critical seminars like the Morogoro ones around the world. Thank you so much!

Through Mission & Service, your generosity addresses prejudice and violence—and helps change lives.



Mark Saler and his dog, Grizzly, continue to find ways to stay connected with patients in Westman

The COVID-19 pandemic isn't stopping a Manitoba dog from bringing joy to patients. Grizzly, a 150 pound St Bernard, has been visiting hospitals in Brandon, Minnedosa and Neepawa, Man. weekly for six years. The pandemic has prevented Grizzly from making his rounds, so instead his owner, Mark Saler, is donating stuffed dogs to patients.

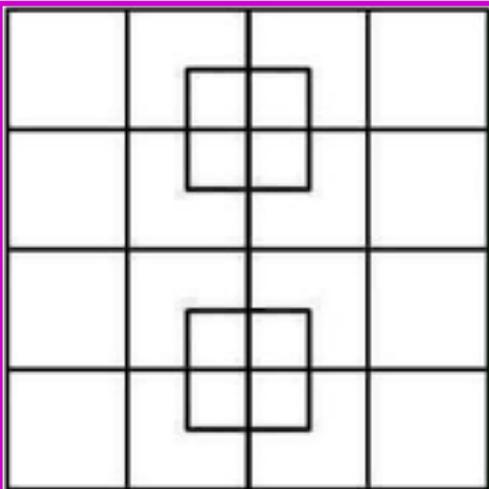
Grizzly's owner, Mark Saler, says since the pandemic hit last year, the licensed therapy dog has been feeling blue not being able to make his regular rounds. They're donating stuffed dogs in the likeness of Grizzly to hospitals. Saler says he's grown up always having a St. Bernard dog, but knew when he got Grizzly he wanted to train him as a therapy dog. His reason for training Grizzly is simply to bring more kindness into the world, and help people that are in desperate need of a smile. Pre-pandemic, Saler says, Grizzly would usually spend time with sick children and cancer ward patients.

Starting in May, Saler says **Co-op grocery stores in Brandon, Minnedosa and Neepawa** will be donating a stuffed dog to patients for every one that is sold.

"As long as the donations keep coming in from other businesses, we will keep doing it. We will hand out as many as we can get until we can get back to the hospital."

More information can be found at:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/grizzly-manitoba-therapy-dog-1.5994073>



How many squares are there in the above puzzle? You might be surprised! I was!

Nature Gets Revenge

Rangers busted a trio of suspected poachers in a South African game reserve recently with tragic consequences for one of them. Reports state that rangers spied the three men who were believed to be trying to poach rhinos, in Kruger National Park, where a chase ensued. When one of the suspects was eventually found and detained, he told the rangers his group had run into a herd of elephants as they fled and that he wasn't sure what had happened to the others.

The rangers soon found out: They found one of the other men dead, "badly trampled" by the elephants. The third suspect is still being sought, believed to have suffered an eye injury in the fracas. Investigators, meanwhile, found a rifle and an axe while searching the grounds.

Kruger National Park, which also houses lions, leopards, and buffalo, is one of the nation's most popular safari locations and one of the largest game reserves in all of Africa!

PRAIRIE TO PINE NEWS

Are you called? Opportunities to serve in Prairie to Pine Regional Council Spring 2021: There are over 90 members of Prairie to Pine currently doing work for the Region and the wider church - that is, doing work on our collective behalf. We extend a Huge Thank You to all of you! The Nominating Committee is now looking at filling the positions of various commissions and committees of the Prairie to Pine Region. We ask you to give your thoughtful consideration to filling some of these roles within the Regional council for the next term. Our committee is carefully discerning the balance, passions, experience, and new "blood" for all committees in the Prairie to Pine Region. If you feel called to one of these vacant positions, or know someone who may be a good fit, please fill out this form online: <https://bit.ly/3d14L9b> or speak to a member of the nominations team. More details regarding the work of each of the commissions and committees can be found on the Prairie to Pine website (<https://prairietopinerc.ca/>). You can also find this invitation online at:

<https://prairietopinerc.ca/are-you-called-summary-of-opportunities-to-serve/>.

... Alison Murray

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook!

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.

UCW Birthdays

Shirley O'Driscoll
April 24th
 M. W.
April 28th

May
3rd ~ Lillian Atchison
7th ~ Marlene Campbell
8th ~ Irene Thompson
16th ~ Elaine Nairne
17th ~ Georgie Pidhorny
31st ~ Darlyne Smith

A tree had been filled with anxiety and decides to see a psychologist. 'I just don't know what to do,' the tree said. 'Every year I feel very anxious during fall and winter.' Hmm, interesting. How do you feel when spring comes?'

The tree smiles:
 'Released!'



Please think about our folks in hospital and care homes and drop them a greeting through the Prairie Mountain Health website. <https://www.prairiemountainhealth.ca/pmh-well-wishes>

There is also a way to 'drop a greeting' for our 'at home' folks! If you would like a thinking of you card sent, call our trusty card lady, Marlane Wilson (729.8574).



Third Sunday of Easter

We are children of God.
How can I help you, God?

Shalom

Our thoughts and prayers to anyone we have missed who are spending time in hospital: or having health issues.

Our thoughts & prayers to:

Jean Hutchings: Assiniboine 3
~moving to Rideau on May 5th.

Malcolm Macdonald: Assiniboine 4

Phyllis Wray: at home recuperating

Bea Lee: Assiniboine 2

Harvey Bullee: Assiniboine 3

Pat McManes: Home after surgery

Georgina Pidhorny: Home after
knee surgery

Irene Brown: hoping to get the boot off on Monday. Cheeky, as always!

Thinking of **Hillary Baker** as she awaits heart surgery. She has an visit with doctor on May 5th. All the best!

Our thoughts and prayers to the family of **Ilelen Turner** following her passing on April 10th.



Linda Friesen gave me some great news: 'My test results were great and the cancer is gone. No further treatments needed. I will check in with doctors for the next two years. Big relief!'
Awesome news!



*May you always have:
Love to share,
Cash to spare,
Tires with air, And
friends who care*

Our Friends in Personal Care and Senior Homes

Dinsdale: Lois Aube

Fairview: Audrey Campbell, Lillian Atchison, Linda Garson, Louise Hodge, Dennis Hume, Betty Russell, Keith Vrooman, Alma Yule

Souris PCH: Emma Garden, Margaret Izzard

Rideau: Don Chambers, Murray Hicks, Robert Jarvie, Eleanor McCreath, Garry VanRenselaar (May 5th-Jean Hutchings)

Valleyview: Laura Cliffe, Bernice Erskine, Shirley O'Driscoll, Lois Wolfe

Riverheights Terrace: Judy Diswinka, Patty Hargreaves, Al & Helen Lauder, Vera Skayman

Rotary Villas: Beatrice Lee, Marg Lovstrom, Frank Rabe

Victoria Landing: Pat Rathwell, Alice Wesley



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The newsletter is prepared every 2nd week
Delivery is being made to all non email

The next issue will be May 6th, 2021

Darlynne Smith ~ Editor

darlynnegbsmith@gmail.com

204-728-7713 @ home ~ 204-724-2923 @ cell
May God hold you in the palm of His Hand