

# TRINITY CONNECTED



## Harrowsmith-Verona Pastoral Charge

Office Phone: 613-372-2525 or 613-374-2777

Voluntary Assistant Minister: Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett

Voluntary Retired Minister: Rev. Ian Mackay

Office Administrator: Rebecca Peters

Director of Music: Stan Stinchcombe

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## 2025 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT

This application is for special recognition for Don Coleman at the Township of South Frontenac 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on November 15 in the category of "Dedication Recognition".

This application is submitted jointly by Trinity United Church in Verona and the Verona Community Association.

Over the last 50 years, Don has been the treasurer for Trinity United Church in Verona as well as decades of volunteer Verona Community Association projects and associations.

In the broader community, he has been the treasurer of the Verona Community Association since their inception. Be it the Christmas for Kids initiative, the "Find a Doc" challenge, the building of the Verona Kiosk, the Verona Electronic Sign initiative and many others, Don has been the always reliable and dependable keep of the books and regular reporting of the state of the project. His skill has been the support for dozens of grant proposals and supporter financial reports.

If that is not enough, Don is a computer whiz and technician. With problems with electronics and really anything needing repair, our first call is Don.



He is one of the most quiet, competent and unassuming volunteers that we have ever had.

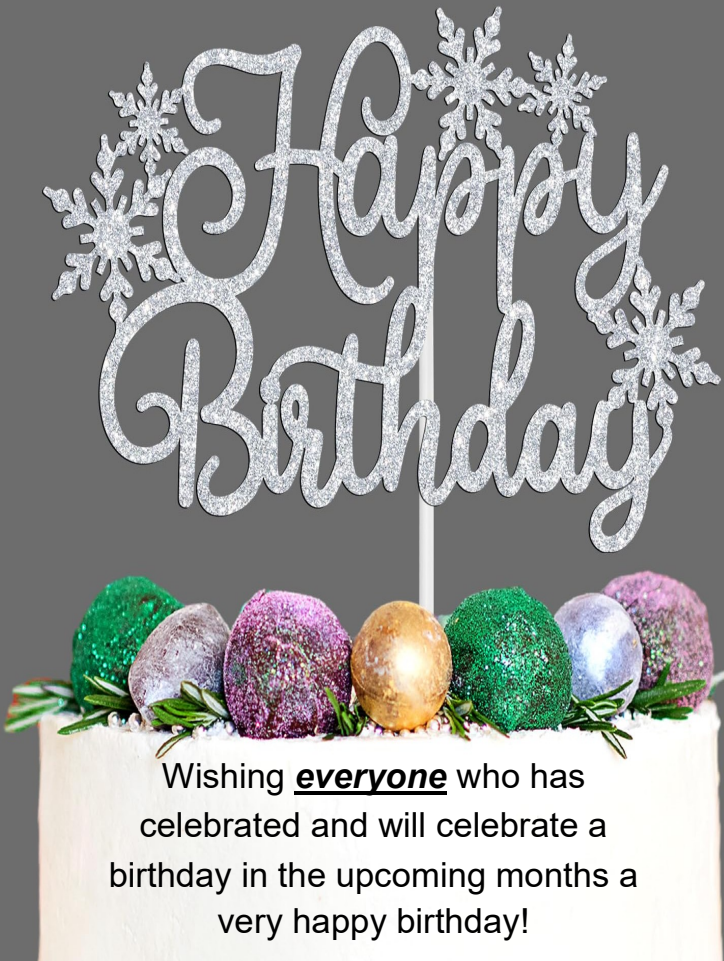
He is open to any suggestions, and we rely on him for accurate and thoughtful reflection at all times.

It is our honour to nominate Don Coleman for this "Dedication Recognition".

Yours sincerely,

**John McDougall, Session,  
Trinity United Church**

**Linda Bates, President,  
Verona Community Association**

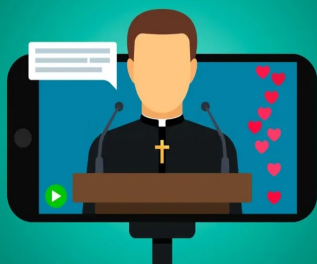


Wishing **everyone** who has celebrated and will celebrate a birthday in the upcoming months a very happy birthday!

Inez Dartt	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Shirley Ellison	December 17 <sup>th</sup>
Millie Cuthill	December 19 <sup>th</sup>
Muriel York	January 8 <sup>th</sup>
Jean Pritchard	January 9 <sup>th</sup>
Kathleen Goodfellow	January 13 <sup>th</sup>
Jane Adamson	January 14 <sup>th</sup>
John McDougall	January 17 <sup>th</sup>
Andy Adamson	January 20 <sup>th</sup>
Ann McDougall	February 6 <sup>th</sup>

## ***LOOKING AHEAD - WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

Sunday December 7th	Second Sunday of Advent with Rev. Ian Mackay	10:00 am
Friday December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Christmas Choir Concert	7:30 pm
Sunday December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Third Sunday of Advent with Rev. Peter Bartlett	10:00 am
Sunday December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fourth Sunday of Advent with Rev. Catherine Oxenford-Grant	10:00 am
Sunday December 21st	Festive Fellowship Potluck	11:15 am
Wednesday December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Service with Rev. Peter Bartlett	5:30 pm
Saturday January 10th	First Trinity Wake-Up Breakfast	8:00 am
Saturday January 17th	Second Trinity Wake-Up Breakfast	8:00 am
Saturday January 24th	Third Trinity Wake-Up Breakfast	8:00 am
Saturday January 31st	Fourth Trinity Wake-Up Breakfast	8:00 am



If you have missed any of our advent church services, you can view them from our website online.  
<https://www.h-vpastoralcharge.org/oneservices.htm>

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## ***A SIGN OF CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS TIME AND BEYOND***

It happened during the Christmas season. The author tells of it in her own words, and writes, "I was walking down Chestnut Street when I noticed a large group of people. As I approached, I saw a young girl, about 7 years old, who was obviously lost, sobbing and bewildered. She was pulling away from those who tried to take her hand and comfort her, including the young policeman who was endeavouring to interest her in his horse.

Something impelled me to walk through the crowd of people. When I reached the inner circle, I stooped down and reached out my arms without saying a word. Almost instantly the little girl turned around, and our eyes met. Then she put out her arms, straight out just as I held mine, and came toward me. She was a large child and ordinarily I would not attempt to lift one so heavy, but she came confidently and unhesitatingly into my arms. I enfolded her and stood up. She entwined her arms and legs around my body and struggled to get closer and closer until we were almost a single figure. We stood in that position for a long time without saying a word. I did not ask her

name, nor did she say anything at all to me. She was quiet, relaxed and contented. The small crowd around us did not move or converse. There was complete silence. Eventually, I turned and saw a young woman with blue eyes - I remember so poignantly those blue eyes - standing close by. She had evidently just approached us. I broke the silence, asking, 'Does she belong to you?' 'Yes,' the woman replied. The child disengaged herself from my arms, quietly slid down to the sidewalk, and silently the two walked off together. The mother did not thank me, nor did the child give me a glance. They disappeared into the holiday throng as though nothing at all had happened. I turned and began walking away, and felt a peculiar exaltation and buoyancy I had never experienced before. My chest almost ached with the wonder that swelled within me, for I knew I had been a vehicle for a divine purpose and that miracles do happen!"

This kind, open-hearted woman bespeaks the story of church, of embracing little ones and bigger ones who are lonely and lost, assuring them that life is still



filled with goodness and that the world is okay. We, who are church, are about the open-hearted business of embracing the lives of others, young and old, doing it in simple, gentle and caring ways. We do it in the Christmas season. We seek to do it in all the seasons of the year, with or without words of gratitude being expressed. After all, works of this kind have within them their own reward ... what the author rightly chooses to call ... "a peculiar exaltation and buoyancy I had never experienced before."


With open arms and open hearts, we, as church, continue to welcome and embrace the ongoing hopes and needs of the world around us. And with it the spirit of Christmas, Holy Spirit, continues to manifest itself in and amongst us all.

With Christmas greetings, blessings and good will to all,

***Rev. Ian Mackay***

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**Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas - it is an invitation into deeper communion with God. As you move through this sacred season, may your heart grow in hope, your spirit rest in peace, your soul overflow with joy, and your life reflect the love of Christ.**

## ***STORIES OF CHRISTMAS***

Reading the Christmas stories of long ago, and bringing them into our adult Christmas may revive family memories of twinkling lights, warmth by the fire, delicious smells from the kitchen, and mouth-watering foods on Christmas day. They may also remind us of the gifts of anticipation, of excitement, of a child's innocent belief. These feelings were often generated through story, both oral and written. We adults need those feelings this Christmas. Stories told us of a gift-bringer named Santa, and other donors called shepherds, the Magi, and of an amazing miracle gift the Baby Jesus.

May we not allow the chaos of forces beyond our control in our world rob us of these ancient sensations of well-being. Rather let us ground ourselves in the traditions of Christmas

lights, Christmas church, Christmas carols wherever sung, Christmas giving of food, time and money and Christmas stories

The following are some recommended Christmas readings, stories told and retold because they kindle love at a time when it seems in short supply...

Always ***The Night Before Christmas*** - read aloud with gusto, recited from memory. Take turns reading. Memorize 8 lines each and then recite the whole thing. Read several versions to enjoy the illustrations. Act it out in your living room with your grandkids. Ad lib your own lines. Make it hilarious as in "I don't care who you are, get those reindeer off my roof!"

2) Google the **New York**

**Times Sun Editorial** from 1867 titled "***Is There a Santa Claus?***" Will it convince you? It convinced me. If not, write your rebuttal in the spring edition of Trinity Connected.

***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** by Barbara Robinson. Yes, you may well be moved to tears at the tender ending. I read it aloud to Carleton in sections every year and laugh and sniffle anew.

4) Short story **The Gift of the Magi** by O. Henry. It can be read on the internet under that above title, or get a public library copy.

**Resubmitted by Linda Brown** who will bring her Christmas story book bag for the next few weeks to church if anyone is interested in borrowing one of her Christmas books.



## ***ALL HAIL, THOU NOBLE GUEST***

All hail, thou noble Guest, this morn,  
Whose love did not the sinner scorn;  
In my distress thou com'st to me;  
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

Were earth a thousand times as fair,  
Beset with gold and jewels rare,  
She yet were far too poor to be,  
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

Ah dearest Jesus, Holy Child,  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled  
With in my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

Martin Luther  
Tr, by Catherine Winkworth

Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay

## ***A NEW YEAR'S CHANGE FOR SHEILA'S PANTRY AND OUR TRINITY FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS***

In 2026, Trinity United Church will join with the Verona Free Methodist Church and the Southern Frontenac Community Services Corporation to expand our food bank assistance in the Verona area.

The Verona Free Methodist Church will donate their fully-accessible facilities for storage of all non-perishable and frozen food donations.

Our congregation will continue to contribute to Sheila's Pantry and our donations will be transferred to the Verona Free Methodist Church for the monthly distribution, along with fresh fruit and vegetables and other perishables provided by Southern Frontenac Community Services, for monthly distribution by our volunteer team.

Other details including the continuing role of our Trinity congregation and the transfer of outreach funds will

be decided by the committees of Session and Stewards, in consultation with the congregation, our funders and other interested parties.

Our two Trinity Hamper campaigns will continue by our congregation as we have been doing.



***Submitted by the Committee of Session***





*Trinity United Church Proudly Presents*

# *Come, Follow The Star*

Join us in Verona for our annual evening of  
carols and Christmas music with the  
Trinity United Church Choir & Friends

**Friday December 12, 2025**

**7:30 pm**

**Trinity United Church  
6689 Road 38 Verona**

**Admission by a  
Food Bank Donation**