

# TRINITY CONNECTED

NOVEMBER 2020

## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

### Serviceberry Bush

Cast your mind back to one Sunday a couple years back, when the members of our Sunday School at a congregational luncheon, encouraged us all to buy a scrumptious-looking homemade muffin or two, or three. All monies were donated by the Sunday School toward the purchase of a shrub to “grace” the ramp side of Trinity. Thanks to their zealous sales pitch, the coffers overflowed. Andy Adamson was directed on their behalf to purchase our Serviceberry shrub. In the spring of 2019, the planting and dedication by Sunday School members was held after church with our congregation in attendance outside. On November 1st 2020, when this photo was taken, our “burning bush” was dressed in splendid scarlet for all of the Verona village to admire. Thanks once again Sunday School for your contribution of time and energy to help beautify our grounds. Yours is the gift that keeps on giving!



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#### Newsletter Submissions

If you would like anything published in the newsletter, please submit it to the office ([office@h-vpastoralcharge.org](mailto:office@h-vpastoralcharge.org)) by the 15th of the month.

## Minister's Corner: Advent/Christmas 2020

By Rev. Catherine Oxenford-Grant

We hear the familiar words from Luke Chapter 1 and wonder what it means to us in 2020, the year of greatest disruption and confusion of our generation! Well, having an angel appear and tell you that you will bear the Son of God is quite the disruption and I am sure Mary was confused. And yet, she said "Let it be according to your word." Our human journey is one of struggle, challenge and thanksgiving. As Christmas praise fills the air with celebration and our hearts with delight, let us joyfully welcome the Holy Christ Child. This year, more than ever, may our prayer come in acceptance of our journey, knowing our greatest human need is presence of God in all our lives.

**The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a virgin whose name was Mary. 'Greetings,' said the angel, 'the Lord is with you. Do not be afraid.... You will bear a son and name him Jesus.' 'Here I am,' said Mary. 'Let it be according to your word.'**  
**Luke Chapter 1**

### Stewards & Session Highlights

- A new TV was purchased for the fellowship to accommodate our overflow for services
- Annual congregational meeting will occur on Sunday February 7th, 2021
- Anniversary service went well. Thank you to all who participated
- We continue to have weekly services, keeping in mind the COVID protocols, with reminders to RSVP before Thursday at noon
- The membership list is being updated
- For the time being, we will continue to refrain from having children's Sunday school services
- There will be one Christmas Eve service held at 5pm December 24th.
- Minutes from both the Stewards and Session can be viewed on the bulletin board at the back of the church

## Church Finances

By Don Coleman

With worship services commencing in October, our financial situation is starting to improve. Our revenues for October were \$8,106.63, including \$6,871 in givings. Our expenses for the same period were \$6,225.54. This is the first time since February that our income has exceeded expenses. We are very fortunate to be in a comfortable financial situation at this time.



Our Mission and Service givings are currently at \$7,483 which is about 62% of our target of \$12,000. We have about 6 weeks left to reach this target. Mission and Service is the outreach arm of the United Church of Canada, providing support for many programs throughout Canada and around the world.

We are also looking for support for our Christmas Food Hamper program. This year because of the pandemic restrictions, we will be giving out gift cards from the local Foodland store instead of food hampers.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the last several difficult months.

## Sunday Worship Services Online

For those who wish to join our worship service online, **we have set up a link on our website** ([www.h-vpastoralcharge.org](http://www.h-vpastoralcharge.org)). **The connection is through Zoom.** If you do not have Zoom installed on your computer or device, you will have the option of connecting through your web browser. The link will be activated around 9:30am each Sunday morning. If you have any questions or problems connecting, please call Don Coleman at 613-483-2450.

**Holy Humor:**  
 “Yes, Joseph and Mary were traveling to Nazareth,”  
 Reverend Martin responded to a question from a young man in his Bible study class, “but I don’t think they would have called it a weekend getaway.”

## Advent During a Pandemic

- Annual concert will not be held
- Decorations in church will be kept to a minimum
- Because of no Sunday School, the pageant will not happen



.....in spite of all these restrictions, take comfort in knowing that Advent will always happen!

## Christmas Hampers

Hampers from Trinity will consist of a gift card from Verona Foodland. In lieu of asking for food donations this year, we are humbly asking church members for monetary donations to this worthy cause.

**Cheques can be made payable to Trinity United Church for tax receipt purposes. The deadline for these donations is December 6<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you again for your heartfelt assistance in this outreach.

### Prayer:

Dear God, some of us have felt separated from your love in this time of distress. Hear our voices as we journey toward the star. You, O God, are the Almighty One, Alpha and Omega. Beyond all time and space, you are God. We await the coming of your Son and will joyfully welcome Jesus and his Spirit alive amongst us. Make us light-bearers in a shadowed world. Work wonders in us and through us. Feed and sustain us in your holiness, as we are encircled with your love. Amen.