

# **Trinity Happenings**



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#### Minister's Message

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In my ministry, I am passionate about creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive space for all people. This is what the United Church offered me. It is what I now strive to offer as an ordained minister of this denomination.

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Carol-Ann

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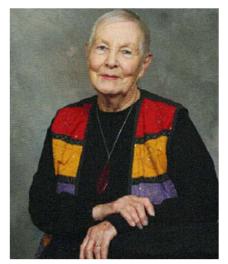
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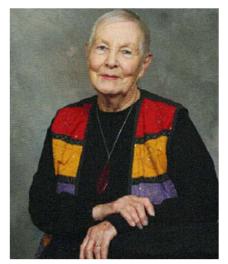
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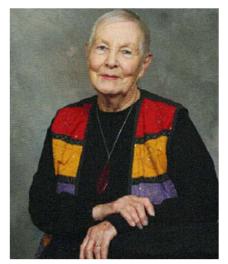
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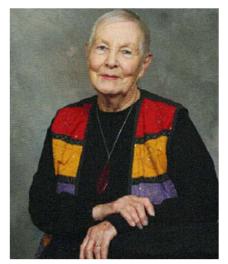
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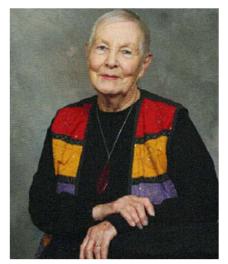
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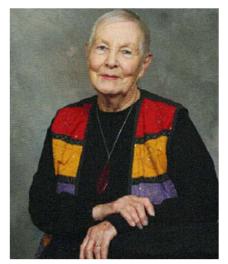
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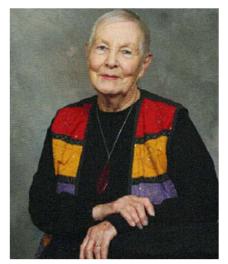
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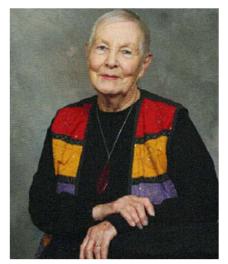
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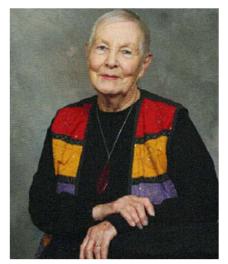
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- § To ensure preparation of the Church's annual report.



# **Trinity Happenings**



To be a compassionate, inclusive, and joyful faith community



#### Minister's Message

In honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada, I'd like to share why the United Church of Canada is important to me. My relationship with the United Church began in 1997 when my daughter was invited to join her friend at Heart Lake United Bible Camp. A couple of years later I started to volunteer at the camp, and in 2002 when I began working as the Children's Ministry Coordinator at an Anglican church, the UCC Bible camp organizers went out of their way to help me get my own Bible Camp off the ground. For the next 5 years we worked together, shared resources and I continued to volunteer with the UCC camp.

When a new minister started at Heart Lake U.C., I loved what she stood for. She was warm, kind and introduced me to a more liberal theology. She was also the first openly gay minister that I'd met. Although I continued to be a member of the Anglican church, I would attend study groups, and other activities and it felt like the United Church was extended family. I would sometimes refer to them as my church cousins.

Fast forward to 2012. I left the Anglican Church and joined a different United Church, but after a year, I felt a pull to transfer my membership to Heart Lake. Since 2001 I had been personally discerning a call to ministry, but something was missing, and I didn't know what it was. As soon as I settled at Heart Lake, I felt the Spirit move me forward on my journey to ordained ministry. The following year I began the discernment process with the United Church.

With the United Church the pieces finally fit into place. I was part of a church with open baptism, open communion and affirming of the LGBTQ+ community. I was encouraged to think outside of the box and my theological world opened up. I needed to be in a church that would love and accept all people...including me. With this freedom and acceptance, I was finally able to be honest with myself about where I needed to be in my personal life. The United Church gave me everything I needed to be the kind of person and minister I desired to be.

In my ministry, I am passionate about creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive space for all people. This is what the United Church offered me. It is what I now strive to offer as an ordained minister of this denomination.

I am grateful for The United Church of Canada and all it has given me. Congratulations to UCC for 100 years of being there for people like me, people like you, and all those who are looking for a church of belonging.

Blessings,

Carol-Ann

### The Life of Trinity

#### **UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES**

June 8	UCC 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service
June 15	Lay-Led Worship service
June 22	Guest Charlotte Adams (Keith and Diane Cross' granddaughter)
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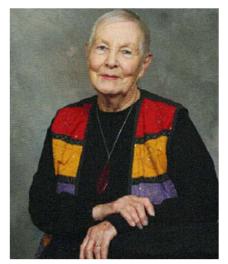
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