

# TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *A JOYFUL NOISE*

Volume 28

Number 2



WESTON LAKE

**SUMMER**

**2011**

## A SILENT SERMON

A church member, who had been attending services regularly, suddenly stopped going, and after a few weeks, the minister decided to pay him a visit.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him in, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace...and waited. In grave silence, the minister contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth by itself, then sat back in his chair, still silent. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and then diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead and the fire itself did not seem to burn as brightly as before.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and realized that it was time to leave. Slowly he stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember with the tongs, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it as the fire joyously enveloped the returning fuel.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek "Thank you so much for your visit, and especially for your fiery sermon. I'll be back in church on Sunday."

We live in a world today which tries to say *too much* with *too little*. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes it seems, the best sermons are ones that are left unspoken.

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Our cover picture of Weston Lake was suggested by Doug Nicholson. One of only many church and young peoples' groups, Trinity has enjoyed numerous great times here in summers past and we are greatly indebted to Gilbert and Barbara Smith, as well as to their son David and his Ethelwyn for their wonderful hospitality. Many, many thanks from us, your Trinity family!



**INITIATIVE:** “The ability to organize a project without being prompted.”

Whitney and Adam Hanna asked our Session if they could operate a booth for Trinity at the Selkirk Waterway Festival in May. There they “showed the Trinity flag” as they invited passers-by to pin their written prayer requests to the Trinity prayer tree, then showed their tree to the congregation on Sunday. That shows great initiative!



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A Sunday School teacher asked her children as they left her class for the church service why it was necessary to be quiet in church, to which one youngster replied brightly “it’s because some people are sleeping!”



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Once again, Trinity participated in forming a lovely “Cross of Flowers” which was displayed during our Easter Sunday worship service. Then, following our “bunwich lunch,” the Worship and Music Committee held an Easter Bonnet contest. We remember that in times past, ladies always wore hats to church, but times have changed and very few do so today. However all agreed that the bonnets worn by the ladies were such a howling success, that many calls were heard that it should be turned into an annual event.

The grand winner of this contest was none other than our own Terry Nicholson. Our sincere congratulations to you Terry!

Please be advised that, due to insufficient registrations, the Family Camp scheduled for July 3-6 at Lake Cowichan has had to be cancelled. However both the Denman Island wilderness Camps from July 28 - August 1<sup>st</sup> and from August 11 - 15<sup>th</sup> are on, as is the regular Family Camp at Rath Trevor Beach - this year reserved from August 25 - 28th.

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While the Ladies' Retreat was attended by fewer ladies this year, all agreed that those who came were blessed with good weather, good food and a simply wonderful time. Trinity provided 7 ladies who came with 2 others from Knox in two cars and a motorcycle to beautiful Capernwray on Thetis Island. Can you spot our seven? Skits, songs, guest speakers, prayers and worship rounded out the weekend.



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Ever wonder why the time of day with the slowest traffic is called “the rush hour?”

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It's just great to see Lorne Butler at his usual place at the piano and organ again on Sunday mornings to lead us in music, and to hear that he has not lost his touch. And isn't it a treat to hear the violin playing alongside the piano as Jeanne Spinelli accompanies Lorne during the sing-along before the service? And what would we do without the happy faces of Anna and Jack as they lead us in song?

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Our own Randy Brown received his MDiv (Master of Divinity) degree from Carey Theological College in Vancouver on May 29<sup>th</sup> and we would like add our “well done” to that of his professors. It is not an easy task to continue studies later in life while one is working for a living, and we are just so proud of him. Hoping to continue into some formal capacity in ministry, Randy has been accepted as a candidate for the ministry by our Vancouver Island Presbytery and his application was sent to our General Assembly for its approval earlier this month. Randy wishes to thank his Trinity family for its support and encouragement.

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We do apologize to Glenda Hunt for missing her bit submitted for the Easter newsletter to thank Bob and Ruth Katzer as well as their neighbours, the Ashes, for providing quality flowers again this year for our sanctuary. We are most grateful for their generosity in sharing their gardens with our Trinity family.

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Robbie Robinson underwent another hospital visit recently, and this time they took it upon themselves to open up two of his arteries with stents, giving him a new lease on life. We wonder though, if he left the hospital a tad early - like the fellow we heard about recently whose story follows.

Our hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

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All are invited to participate in a summertime pot luck lunch which we have scheduled for Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Bring your memories including Trinity pictures and your pot luck donations to 4619 Vantreight Drive and enjoy a Trinity family get-together in mid-summer. If the sale of our house goes through, it may be our last get-together here. And of course, car pooling is always encouraged.

Enquiries have been made about Jim Andres who has been away for several Sundays. His brother Tom, a construction contractor just finishing a project in Saskatchewan, has been inflicted with cancer, and Jim went off to Cranbrook to help Tom as his site supervisor there, overseeing the erection of a Lube-X franchise, as well as its safety co-ordinator and first aid attendant. All going well, he may then repeat this franchise operation in Brooks, and once more in Duncan this fall, at which time he hopes to see us on Sundays again. It's a lonely time for Cathy, but helping one's brother is certainly a priority, so we do indeed sympathize with her.

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One of the many steps churches are required to undergo before calling a new minister is a building inspection. This was completed in May and our Search Committee continues to proceed with succeeding steps. At its June meeting, it is anticipated that Presbytery will give us permission to advertise for a minister.

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We have heard it said that isn't so much what we "get out of church" that counts, **but what we put into it.** It is with some regret that Session has decided to cancel our weekly Sunday coffee hours during the summer months with a promise to restart them again on September 4<sup>th</sup>, following our regular Communion Service. Our Thursday morning men's and ladies' study and prayer times will also begin again that week.

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We've received an email from Sandra Carslaw bringing us up to date on her travels. She and Harry are tired of being nomads, so she is looking for a wee house that they can call home. At the moment, she is considering Devon and finds she is having to readjust her "must-haves." So many houses in her price range have the front door right on the street and no back garden, which they both feel is necessary to their sanity. Harry, her golden retriever, is pretty mellow, but needs grass under his feet, a need we can all relate to! She would appreciate your prayers as she seeks to settle in just the right spot, and she sends her greetings to all her dear friends at Trinity.

## **Search Committee Update**

Your committee has completed the “stage 1” of its work in assembling a congregational profile which, following Presbytery approval, will be used in advertizing for our new minister.

One profile item was a summary of a report prepared for us by Rev. Scott. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 19 members of Trinity took part in his workshop “Blessed History.”

Prior to this workshop, 33 people completed a “Spirit Given Gift Assessment Questionnaire” and Rev. Scott commented that, while all gifts on this questionnaire were evident in the life of Trinity, the following gifts were prominent:

1. **Faith:** Unwavering confidence in God’s faithfulness, regardless of present circumstances.
2. **Discernment:** Recognizing what is genuine from what is pretence; from what is of God from what is not.
3. **Mercy:** Instinctively and compassionately responding to the suffering of others with practical deeds that embody Christ’s love.
4. **Justice:** Seeing the quality of human relations through Gods shalom (peace) and working for the needed physical, social, political, economic and environmental changes.
5. **Prayer:** Daily prayer and receiving clear responses from God to requests.
6. **Creativity:** Using artistic skills such as art, drama, music, writing, dancing, etc. for the glory of God and the building up of the church.
7. **Knowledge:** Assembling and organizing information and ideas for the health of the church.

Rev. Scott said that we needed to work towards matching our Spirit-given gifts with the ministries of the congregation to church members and the community. Prayerful reflection, discussion and discernment are basic to this and will assist the congregation as it seeks to call a new minister with the appropriate gifts to support and enhance the ministry of the congregation.

Your Search Committee expects to receive applications during the summer months and short listing of candidates will, in all likelihood, begin in September.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Kellogg, Chairperson

**Unanswered prayer:**

The preacher's 5 year old daughter noticed that her father always bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon and one day, she asked him why.

“Well honey,” he began, proud that she was so observant of his messages. “I’m asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.”

“So how come He doesn't?” she asked

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Our annual Trinity Church Picnic was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Kinsmen Park, courtesy of our hosts Robbie and Raegan. Clouds gave way to sunshine as the cooks and wanna-bees presented their delectables, and a truly fine time was enjoyed by all. To our great hosts, the rest of us offer a big “Thank You.”

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**FROM HERE AND NOWHERE**

One of the things I like about going away for a holiday is the freedom and time to read as much as I like, and Bob has long since discovered that he can't expect much activity from me the first few days, while I plough through a book or two.

My choice of books is somewhat eclectic but I have no time for most mystery books, nor sheer rubbish, but prefer historical stuff. I recently read a small book written about the Chinese who came to Victoria in the late 1800s hoping for a better future and instead, often finding dire poverty here too. These people brought with them the wisdom of their ancestors and, while some of their beliefs were odd, they were none the less wise in many ways. Midway through the book, I popped into the kitchen to get an apple and interrupted Bob to share the latest gem of knowledge. “Bob, I have always thought the Chinese were very smart, and if one could subscribe to the notion that we descended from the apes, it is evident that they came down out of the trees a lot earlier than we did.”

That got his attention as, with a funny look on his face, he patiently waited for the other shoe to drop.

“Do you know what they call the little finger? The ‘ear finger.’ Isn't that brilliant?”

He looked puzzled and asked “What’s so brilliant about that? Everyone uses their little finger to clean out their ears.”

That came as a surprise as I have been using the index finger for the last three quarters of a century and it has never worked very well. I always wondered why we had a little finger as it seemed somewhat useless to me, whereas the index finger is always busy. We point with it, dial with it, and some people use it almost exclusively to type. When I galloped my imaginary horse chasing bad guys as a kid, the index finger worked fine as an imaginary gun. I blame my mother; she should have told me about the ear finger. Thanks to her neglect, my poor children have been raised in ignorance too, but I’m not going to ask if they knew, for fear they send me off to the funny farm.

As most of you know, we are selling our house and gradually shedding a bunch of stuff that we won’t be able to find room for in a condo. Most decisions have been fairly easy to agree on, but we are both dreading and therefore putting off, the dreadful day that we start on the book cases, for there we will lock horns. Bob feels it essential to own pretty much any Bible printed in the last million years while I, on the other hand, seem to find one works pretty well for me. After all, we also own a stack of reference books which I rarely use, having discovered that I can ask him any question I like, and if he doesn’t know, he will look it up for me. Saves no end of time! I, on the other hand, am very reasonable about which books I need to keep. I just checked and there will be no problem. I need to keep them all.

We are so blessed that we live in a country that has an abundance of pretty well everything, plus freedom that many people in the world can only dream of.

I have been listening closely to prayers recently, and it would appear that we are really good at asking God for things, but rather negligent at remembering to say thank you when those prayers are answered. At the Ladies’ Retreat, one of our speakers suggested that we should compose a psalm and so, thinking that everyone was leaving to do just that, I took advantage of the peaceful interlude to write. After the speaker read mine, she asked me to read it to the assembly and the consensus was that it should go un-edited into the newsletter. So here it is, and I pray that it may speak to you.

## A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

You were there when you knit me in my mother's womb;  
and there when my tiny heart began to beat to the rhythm of your love.

I thank you.

You were there when my sister explained in such loving terms -  
that I was your child. I thank you.

You were there in my youth when temptations bombarded me,  
yet in your gentle touch and loving whisper, I grew into a young woman  
who knew where her strength came from. I thank you.

You were there when the young men began to notice me.

You gave me the wisdom to evaluate and the strength

to turn my back on my first love, because you knew to tell me clearly  
that he would never be the strong Christian I needed. I thank you.

You were there when a young pilot asked me to go for a flight with him.

You gave me the wisdom to see through his quiet demeanour; that quiet isn't  
boring, and that his strength and faithfulness was what I needed. I thank you.

You were there when you told me to adopt first one, then a second wee girl,  
making our family of three boys into a challenge of five. I praise you.

You gave me the strength to deal with all their growing pains,  
often when my earthly strength was away flying 'planes. I thank you.

Lord, you are always with me through joy and sorrow,

and I lean heavily on your love and guidance,

as I and my beloved husband walk hand in hand into our old age.

I thank you, praise you and adore you.

And I know that, whatever the future holds;

you will always hold us in the palm of your hand.

Joy