

# Trinity Talks

Save the date

Inviting All to Share and Grow in God's Love...



DEC. 2: 1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Advent

DEC. 6: Blue Christmas, 7:30 PM

DEC. 8: Breakfast with Santa, 9 AM



DEC. 9: 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Advent

DEC. 15: Nativity Gingerbread at Messy Church, 4 PM



DEC 16: 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Advent, Carolling at Grace Dart, 3 PM



DEC. 23: 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent, Children's Pageant



DEC. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 9:30 PM



DEC. 25: Christmas. Happy birthday, Jesus!

## *An Advent Poem-Prayer*

*by Aaron Miechkota*

*Holy One,  
Underneath the starry skies  
there's a gentle peace within our hearts,  
a sacred space  
where your tenderness resides  
like a mother waiting for her  
newborn babe  
there's a joy in our hearts  
sharing laughter with good company  
there's a hope in the waiting time  
before the Christ child is born  
an anticipation of love reborn,  
a love everlasting  
under the starry skies.  
Amen*



# Our Minister

## A note from Rev. Read Sherman

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*Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.*

*- Advent Hymn by Chris Tomlin*

Dear Friends:

It is that time again, now that the time has changed and our life here in Montreal seems more somber than sunlit. It is time to prepare for a new Christian year - Advent! - which for us begins on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018. Advent is the Christian season, next to Easter, which is perhaps most anticipated. When Advent arrives, we know the rebirth of Love cannot be very far away. For what else can we say about the birth of Jesus - the One called Lord, Saviour, Counsellor, Emmanuel, or "God With Us" - except that it, he, changes, everything.

How? Who cannot be touched, again and again, by the vulnerability of the first cry of a newborn? It is a cry each one of us knows: "I'm afraid! What is this new world? Am I okay? Is someone there for me? Who will love me?" It is our human instinct to reach out, to soothe, to protect, such a cry. By virtue of that birth, Christians the world over are called to respond to it by our lives: to reach out, to soothe, to protect.

And yet, I know, I know, that this change seems very remote to many of us. Life continues to be hard - and painful, be it in our personal lives, business pursuits, our families, even among us as a church family. The world, it seems almost every year, has more problems rather than less. How can we believe that our "keeping Christmas" again this year will make any difference, when up till now, it may seem like it's made no difference at all?

Ah! Such a great question!! And the answer is so simple. It is right before our eyes - and hearts. It is to respond to Christ's birth by offering him gifts that cost no money, and yet cost us - everything. **To reach out** (when someone has hurt us, or we have hurt another) instead of holding our hurt inside (it will only then come out in unintended ways which can be so destructive); **to soothe** (rather than fan the flames of judgment against others by gossip and the like); **to protect** (orient your life to protecting others from harm - especially those with whom you find yourself in conflict).

If each of us affirmed this Way of the newborn Christ - what a difference it would make for us in community, and for our families, business relationships, you name it.

"Look at that! \_\_\_\_\_ (your name here!) is so changed! She/he reached out to me to talk through our troubles! She/he gave me a soothing card saying "I'm sorry." She/he offered to help protect me when others talk unkindly about me."

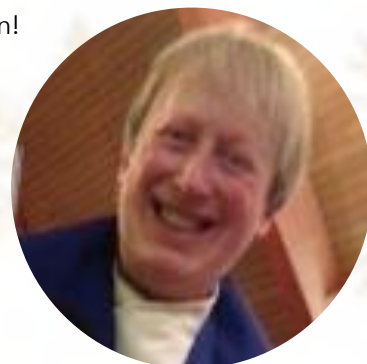
Friends, now we're talking! Now, Christmas can come, because we have changed! Now, Christmas birth is made tangible, real. In our homes, businesses, at school, at church. With

God's help, with you and with me bearing light to everyone as best we can, we'll experience a Christmas like we never have before!

Emmanuel - God With Us! Amen!

## Read

PS: See the following "Affirmations of Christmas" and consider making them your own. God bless!



# Affirmations of Christmas

- anonymous

**I believe** that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.

**I believe** there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

**I believe** that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices; from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

**I believe** in the angel's message that we should not be afraid—that the Child of Bethlehem is able to help us overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

**I believe** in prayer and quietness as a way of keeping Christmas—that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.

**I believe** in going away from Christmas as the wise men went: "another way." I want to be different when these days are past—more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

**And I believe** God will help me. Amen

# Christmas Events

## *Best Gift Fund* until Dec. 15th

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The Best Gift Fund was started about 15 (or so) years ago by the (then) Youth Group. It after a discussion we had about kids who do not get new toys at Christmas. Their concern was they believed needy kids often get used or dated toys for Christmas - because that's what people donate - and they felt that it caused those kids to be socially isolated.

So they came up with the idea of buying each needy kid one awesome toy - their best gift -

so that they could be part of their social group.

Over the years, our youth have found ways to raise money for the Best Gift Fund.

Near Christmas, we go shopping and pick out non-violent, multicultural toys which we then donate to Sun Youth.



## *Breakfast With Santa* Dec. 8 at 9 AM

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*Come have breakfast with Santa!  
Enjoy breakfast, sing song holiday  
favourites, and sit on Santa's lap. All  
ages are welcome!*

**Price: \$8** (children under 4 are free)

Menu: Pancakes, sausages, juice,  
coffee and tea

Please reserve before Dec. 1 by  
calling or texting Diane Best at  
514-725-7742.

## *Messy Church : Nativity Gingerbread* Dec. 15 at 4PM

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All are welcome to attend Messy Church: an informal, loving community of people who come together to participate in crafts and activities, prayers, and dinner. At this Messy Church we will bake

Nativity scenes, among other crafts. You don't need to be a kid or have a kid to join us. You don't even need to be messy!



## *Grace Dart Carolling* Dec. 16 at 3 PM

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On December 16th we will have our annual carol singing at the Grace Dart home on St. Catherine Street at 3 PM. It is a great way for us as a church to bring Christmas cheer to the

residents and has been an annual event for the past three years. This is open to anyone who loves to sing or to give a friendly hello. For information see David or Garry Garland.



## Choir Cantata Dec. 22 at 7:30 PM

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Our church hall will fill with the beautiful voices of Christmas as our choir presents a cantata entitled The Wondrous Story - A

Christmas Cantata. What a wonderful way to bring in Christmas! **Suggested Donation: \$5**

## Christmas Pageant Dec. 23 at 11 AM

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Oh, just wait to see what the Sunday School is preparing for you!

This year's Christmas pageant is a funny re-telling of the Christmas story as told in Luke.

A stunned Mary, a sleepy Joseph, shocked shepherds, and a multitude of hilarious heavenly hosts eagerly tell the story of Jesus birth.

Prepare to be amazed at what our kids can do!

**DRESS REHEARSAL** for all participants on Dec. 8th, following Breakfast with Santa.

**PRESENTATION OF THE PLAY: December 23 at the 11 am service.**

Come, let us adore them (the children)!



## Memorial Tree throughout the Christmas season

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We will have a Memorial Tree again this Christmas.

You are welcome to purchase a Christmas tree ornament for a minimum donation of \$5 (\$10 or more gets

you a tax receipt). When you buy an ornament, your loved one's name will be written on it and the money goes to the Benevolent Fund. You may donate one in memory of someone you love or as a special thanks for someone in your life. The Memorial Tree will be lit at the Blue Christmas service.



## Sunday Afternoons at the Movies Dec. 9 and 23

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Join us for an afternoon of holiday classics. Popcorn and hot chocolate provided!

**DECEMBER 9:** Miracle on 34th Street

**DECEMBER 23:** The Star



# Looking for Something to Do?

**At Trinity, you never need to be alone. Join you of the myriad of things happening at church!**

## ★ BUSY BEAVERS

Tuesdays at 11 am. Come be a church fixer-upper.

## ★ CHOIR

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. See Julia Budd.

## ★ COMMUNICATIONS TEAMS

If email, Facebook, and Twitter are your thing, see Gary Tompkins!

## ★ DECORATING TEAM

Have a flair for design and what to make the outside of our church sparkle! Speak to Kim Wildenmann.

## ★ LITERACY TEAM

Passionate about reading and want to help someone learn to read? See Sheri Cameron.

## ★ MISSION & SERVICE

If you love to bake and raise money for people in need, then we need you! See Stacey Ciciola.

## ★ OUTREACH

Looking for ways to reach out and help other people in a personal way? See Ivylin Scott.

## ★ SUPER SENIORS

Free on Tuesdays and looking for some fun? Swing by Tuesdays at 11 am. You don't even need to be a senior! See Grace Rostig.

## ★ TECH TEAM

Rev. Read is still looking for tech-savvy people to join Luca and Aaron on the Tech Team. See Rev. Read.

# New and Noteworthy

## Welcome to Our New Teachers!

I am overjoyed to report that we have not 1, not 2, not 3, but **6** new teachers in the Sunday School!

Join me in extending a warm welcome to our crew of teachers who are volunteering 1-2 times per month doing all sorts of things from crafts and games to science.

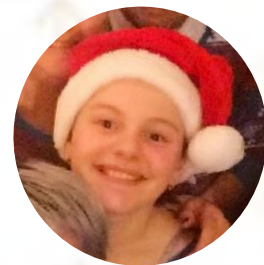
These wonderful volunteers are Diane Best, Jenn Carroll, Natalya Scott-Sandy, Sabrina Heffernan, and Veronica Heffernan.

And last - but not least - a big welcome to Kearsy Lebeau who will be our new preschool teacher, volunteering whenever she can in the Sunday School with our wee ones who already

adore her.

Thank you everyone!  
We are so blessed!

*Sheri*<sub>xox</sub>



## Breakfast Club

A great way for us as a church to get together for a good meal and fellowship.

Open to all of any age.

Each month we meet at 10 am for breakfast followed by an event, speaker or Christian video.

Diane Best is always available to take care of any children who attend.

If you have any suggestion of guest speakers or events contact David Garland 438-875-0129 or at

[salvation\\_scoutl@hotmail.com](mailto:salvation_scoutl@hotmail.com) or Diane Best 438-765-7904 or at [diane\\_red-pink5@live.com](mailto:diane_red-pink5@live.com)

Our next Breakfast Club will be on January 19th.



## New Governance Structure

At the spring 2018 Congregational Meeting, there was a motion to review the governance structure of our church. As a result, an ad-hoc committee was struck and all members of the congregation were invited to attend. Although some people were consistent on the committee, many different people attended meetings, and had the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. Our committee has relied on the work of Ira Lax and we thank him for his support and hard work.

Next steps: continue discussion with other groups and present it at the next Congregational Meeting with out (Governance Committee and Nominations Committee) recommendations on who should wear what hat(s).

To see the proposed governance structure and by-law, see our website.

*Glenn Funamoto*

*Chair of the Governance Team*

## Our Building: Furnace and Plexiglass Triangle

Our building is big and beautiful....and old. So it stands to reason that we have some major capital expenses attached to it from time to time.

A few years back we fixed the roof. During the summer, we replaced the carpet in the sanctuary, choir room, and women's washroom. Now, we have two other major expenses coming our way: our current boiler in the furnace room has had to be replaced by two new boilers. Thankfully, Ashley Verhaege and the Trustees were quick to act, giving us a nice, warm church.

Also, the triangular plexiglass outside of our sanctuary is cracking and needs to be replaced in the spring. For the time being, a professional will come in to fix the plexiglass so that it is safe for us to use the main entrance.

The Official Board, its Executive, and the Trustees are looking into options for the replacement of the plexiglass. Rest assured that you will be included in the final decisions.



Our "old" building as it looked in 1912.



Our "new" building when it was first built in 1960.

## Thank You!

*Our church could not exist without the passion and dedication of our members. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time.*

*Special thanks to:*

### ★ Halloween Night

Showering 150 new children with God's love as they came to collect candy

### ★ Bazaar

Working together, we managed to raise over \$1000!

### ★ Governance Team

Pouring over United Church Manuals, consulting outside sources, and putting together a proposed governance structure

### ★ Ivylin Scott

Organizing the Harvest Luncheon, turning the Thanksgiving display into meals, procuring a fridge and stove for our little kitchen upstairs and for lots of other things most people don't even know about!

### ★ Ashley Verhaege

Leading the plexiglass and furnace efforts and for countless other jobs around the church with the Busy Beavers.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our "old" building was built in 1912 and our "new" building was built in 1960!

# Our People

## Introducing... Michelle, Gionatan, Jackson, and Logan!

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Who's New? Michelle and Johnny, Jackson and Logan!

While not really "new" to Trinity, Michelle Mangal and Gionatan (Johnny) Testa are among our "newer" friends at church. If you haven't yet met them, they are the couple with their now two children, who often sit in the back row, pulpit side in worship. Many of us will remember their son Jackson's baptism back in March, 2017 - a wonderful occasion of joy! We've seen them on and off since then, as they have needed time to tend to their new little one - Logan - whom we will have the pleasure of baptizing soon. :-)

Michelle and Johnny found Trinity when they attended a baptism here for Brody, one of the sons of friends Shanna Riddell and Michael Rudolph. Michelle was surprised there was an English speaking church so close by them in Rosemont! With the birth of their first son, Michelle thought this was the right timing to take a step back into

church. Growing up Catholic, Michelle was looking for a more open, accepting community. She and Johnny had chosen to be married in a United Church - St. James United, in fact! But having a church in their neighbourhood? Perfect!

When not at work as a psychotherapist (Michelle) or an online marketer/graphic designer (Gionatan, at [AskMen.com](http://AskMen.com)), and not doting on their two boys (and their two pug dogs - Coco and Pugsly - see photo, pictured with Logan - age 5 months), Johnny enjoys video games like Overwatch and Redemption II.

Michelle, meanwhile, is a longtime GH (General Hospital, for those not in the know!) fan, and recently started a weekly podcast about the show with her sister Melanie. Called "The Port Charles Update", you can check it out on iTunes and other platforms.

Michelle, Johnny and family - we are so glad you are here!





# Introducing... Carmelia and J'Nell!

by Sheri Cameron

On Easter in 2018, a beautiful mom and daughter with infectious smiles came through our church's doors.

I clearly remember J'Nell's first day in Sunday School. I was concerned that she would feel overwhelmed with all the children who were eagerly running around following hints trying to find their Easter treats. But J'Nell was poised and calm and hopped right into the organized chaos. I knew right there and then that she was awesome.



I caught up with Carmelia and asked her a few questions:

**Sheri:** Where are you from?

**Carmelia:** I was born in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, but J'Nell was born in Montreal.

**S:** How does Trinity fit in your faith journey?

**C:** I want to continue serve Christ because He died for me.

**S:** In general, what are your favourite things about coming to church?

**C:** The ability to forgive and be forgiven

**S:** What do you do for a hobby or for fun?

**C:** I sing, dance, and cook. J'Nell and I cook together and J'Nell does karate.

**S:** Is there a quote from the Bible that you find particularly inspiring?

**C:** Love and forgive others as God loves and forgives us.

**S:** Anything else you would like to tell us?

**C:** We are happy to be in an English church. I'm grateful that my daughter

is learning about God's undying love for each and every one of us His children on Earth.

**S:** I am lucky to be able to catch up with these wonderful women almost every Sunday on the bus on the way to church.

We are so glad that you've chosen to make Trinity your church home.

## Holiday Humour



# Catching Up with Our Theology Students

## Season's Greetings to my Friends at Trinity United Church,

If you haven't seen me around Trinity over the past few months, there is a good reason! As part of my theology studies, my school has placed me in a church across town, as a learning site. The church I'm at is Montreal West United Church. The church building itself is almost 100 years old, and a merging of various congregations over the years. My role in the community is to shadow the minister, Reverend Mark Hammond. I am learning about congregational ministry. Rev Mark is a wonderful person, who is so generous with his time, and challenges me to learn more and more about serving God through ministry. The congregation here is wonderful too. So far I have visited people in care residences, helped with communion, attended Remembrance Day services with the



Mayor, lead prayers, and, on occasion, I have preached.

Joining a new congregation as a student hasn't always been easy. Following God's will for my life has taken me away from Trinity and the people I have come to know and love. But I am faithful to God's call, to learn how to serve God's people with care and compassion.

This Advent season, let's take time to remember our friends, both near and far. Taking time to pray for those we hold in our hearts, even if we don't see them every week. I pray for you all every day with so much gratitude for the encouragement and love I have received amongst you at Trinity!

I wish everyone at my home church, Trinity United, a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

From, Your theology student,  
*Aaron Miechkota*

## Where is Selina?

For the last year of my M.Div. I've been doing a stage, working during the week at the Montreal City Mission and Sundays at Wesley United. At the Mission, I'm helping out with their interfaith projects such as the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Light banquet, which you are all invited to (details on the Mission's Facebook). At Wesley, I'm working under Rev. McClure, developing my preaching craft and worship leading.

It's been a lot of fun! I miss being with everyone at Trinity, but I'm glad to catch you up on what I've been busy with.

*Selina Mullin*



# Deliciously Donated Recipes

## Refrigerator Chocolate Cookies (Gail Purcell)

1/2 cup soft salted butter	1/2 cup soft shortening
2 1/4 cups All Purpose flour, sifted	1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda	1/4 tsp salt
1/2 c finely chopped nuts	1 tsp vanilla
1/2 c brown sugar	1/2 c granulated (white) sugar
2 eggs, well beaten	3 squares Bakers unsweetened chocolate (= 12 flat pieces)

Measure butter & shortening into mixing bowl.  
Sift together sifted flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add chopped nuts as desired  
Cream butter & shortening until fluffy; add vanilla; gradually add sugar  
Add egg; beat well; add chocolate and mix well  
Add dry ingredients combining thoroughly  
Chill for 1 hour  
Shape into rolls 2" in diameter; wrap in wax paper and chill overnight  
(I usually leave in fridge for 2-3 weeks)  
Using a sharp knife, cut dough into 1/8" slices, arranging on an ungreased  
cookie sheet, leaving bit space between cookies to allow for spreading.  
Bake at 375 for 8-10 minutes  
Remove cookies from pan and cool on rack  
**Yield: 7 - 10 dozen cookies**

## Christmas Bars (Gail Purcell)

**Base:** 1 1/2 cups All-Purpose flour  
1/4 cup icing sugar  
1/2 cup (= 1/4 lb) salted butter

**Topping:** 2 eggs (large or extra-large)  
1 cup brown sugar, packed  
1 cup sweet coconut  
1/2 cup finely chopped red glazed cherries & 1/2 cup finely chopped green glazed cherries  
1/2 tsp almond flavouring  
1/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Place flour & icing sugar in a bowl & mix to blend. Cut in butter until mixture is pea-sized.  
Press mixture into an ungreased 9" x 11" oblong pan (Dollarama tin foil lasagna pan is perfect:-))  
Bake in 350 F oven for 8 minutes. Remove from oven.  
For topping - Beat eggs well, then add brown sugar & beat until well mixed.  
Stir in sugar & beat until well mixed.  
Stir in coconut, cherries & almond flavouring.  
Spread mixture over base evenly.  
Bake in 350 F oven for 30 minutes or until golden.  
When cool, cut into squares.  
Makes about 27, depending on size.





## *Super Seniors*

### **November**

27

a.m. Yoga with Shalom/ knitting and games  
p.m. Birthday party (Gary S.) Bean bags

### **December**

4

a.m. Christmas Carols  
p.m. Birthday party (George, Gérald, Aaron, Claudette, Jim)

11

a.m. and p.m.  
Christmas card-making blitz!

18

a.m. and p.m.  
Christmas Party and gift exchange.

### **January**

Thursday, the 3


Annual New Year's Party at Bev and John's

**All are welcome to any or all of these activities!**

Activities and free lunch: what more could you want?!

Tuesdays 11:30-2:30

**Contact Grace at 438-399-8141 or  
[graceswann@yahoo.ca](mailto:graceswann@yahoo.ca)**





# *Ainé-es Supers*

## Novembre

27

Matin: Yoga avec Shalom/tricot et jeux  
Après-midi: Fête du mois (Gary S.) Poches

## Décembre

4

Matin: Chantons Noël  
Après-midi: Fête du mois (George, Gérald, Aaron,  
Claudette, Jim)

11

Matin et après-midi:  
Cartes de Noël

18

Matin et après-midi:  
Party de Noël et échange de cadeaux

## Janvier

Jeudi, le 3

Party du Nouvel an annuel chez Bev and John

**Toutes et tous sont les bienvenu-es aux activités!**

Activités et dîner gratuits: que voulez vous de plus?!  
Mardi de 11h30-14h30

**Contactez Grace au 438-399-8141 ou  
[graceswann@yahoo.ca](mailto:graceswann@yahoo.ca)**

# Autumn Throw-Back

## Sharing Good Times



Blessing of the Backpacks - and donations of school supplies.



The beginning of Pride Fellowship



Prayer Group



Halloween at Super Seniors



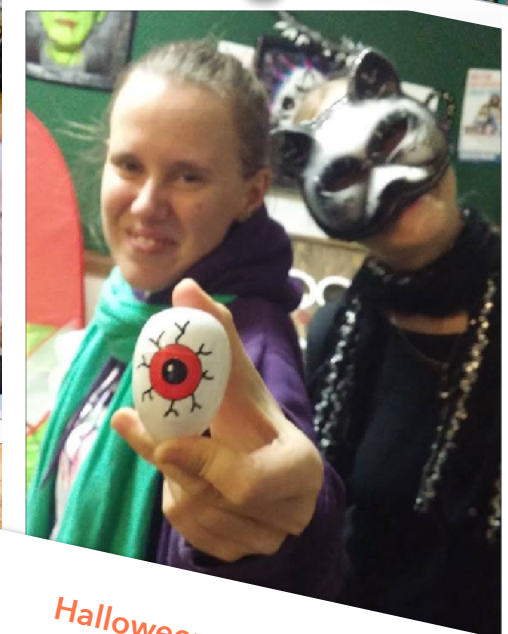
Blessing of the Animals



**Pumpkins, Pizza, and God!**



**Yoga at Super Seniors with Shalom Thomson.**



**Halloween Candy Giveaway.**



**The 7th avenue staircase and outside the Sunday School were painted by the Verdun Dragon Boat Club.**



**Harvest Luncheon**



3050 BOUL. ROSEMONT  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC  
H1Y 1M2

[www.trinityuc.net](http://www.trinityuc.net)



*Keep in touch!*

### **Have you moved?**

If you have moved or you will be moving in the near future, please send your change of address, phone number, and email to Shirley Cartmill at [tazmagoo@sympatico.ca](mailto:tazmagoo@sympatico.ca) or call her at 514-376-2159.

We want to keep in touch with you.

