



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**

IN MEMORIAM

Gone but never forgotten.

Maria Turanski (nee Genga)

Vera Studnicki

John Lewchuk

Irma Brathwaite (nee Skeete)

Gladys Snelgrove (nee Pottle)

Gerald Bradshaw

Mary Yankowski (nee Tokar)

Robert David Haines



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

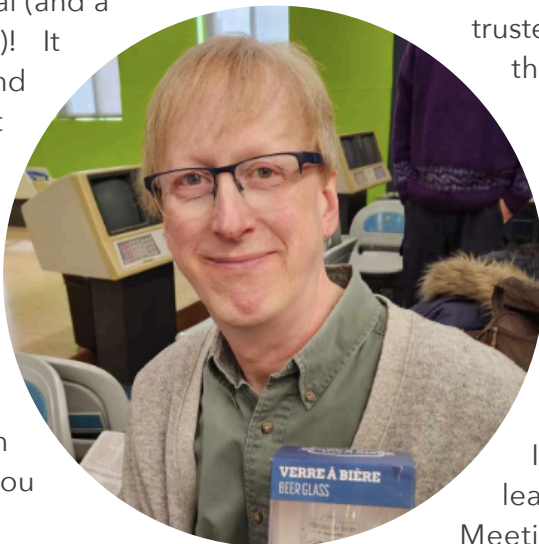
Rev. Read Sherman

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger.....

Luke 8:22-25

Dear Friends:

2023 started off with a bang for me when on January 1, 2023 I was back in the pulpit after a three month sabbatical (and a month off of holiday as well)! It was time to "hit the ground running" and to reconnect with so many of you after an extended time away. Of course, you all had come through that time with flying colours, keeping worship lively and continuing to be faithful to God's call as a congregation and as individuals. Thank you again for your faithfulness!



The early months of the year were focussed on governance as Council met and planning got underway for our Annual Meeting. Or should I say, meetings! It turned out that several meetings were needed to accomplish the busy agenda before us. Chair Rosemary Warren organized and guided us through in her careful, inclusive way. We learned (sometimes the hard way!) that our Trinity Handbook was in need of revisions to better align with the will of the congregation. We experienced procedural

hiccups (or was it indigestion?) in how we actually meet and vote and take decisions, and responded with a Special Meeting to Amend the Handbook as a result, taking targeted aim at several articles. Two of note, were to expand the Council to 8 people (an "At Large" position was created!), as well as "regularize" all our Trustees, including specifically those serving faithfully as life-appointed trustees continuing from the old structure to the new one voted in by the congregation back in 2021. We elected a full roster of leaders - Council and Ministry Teams - and attempted to elect trustees. For trustees, we learned that for both elections and resignations, proper notice needed to be given before this could take place (thus anticipating a need for another meeting for that purpose sometime in the future!).

I think - I hope - we all learned a lot at our Annual Meeting(s)! We learned how despite our hope for Holy Manners, in the heat of our hopes to move forward, we can stumble into voices getting loud as questions of procedure and protocol were raised. Missteps can happen - leaving people frustrated and angry - even though we're all friends in Christ and wanting to work towards the same ends. I know what I learned - yet again! - was the need to speak up as your minister when the pressure seemed on (my colleague the Rev. Stéphane Vermette did speak up in wise ways - thanks Stéphane!).

Like the disciples in a storm-tossed boat, we needed to “wake up Jesus” to help calm our fears and frustrations. To the extent I failed to be that “still, small” voice, I do apologize, and hope to do better (with all your help) in future.

I may have failed in that moment, but Jesus never fails! He’s always there, ready to wake up, or wake us up, to calm the storms we face as individuals and as the church. Another storm to mention is the deficit of some \$90,000 that our Director of Finance announced for budget 2023. We have reserves as everyone knows, but the congregation’s giving does not cover our annual operating budget. We’ve always relied on our reserves to “top up” the revenues, so our boat doesn’t sink. We passed the budget, faithfully presented as always, knowing that there wasn’t much we could cut that would put a real dent in the deficit. It remains a topic that Council, and/or a designated group of committed members and friends, needs to look at with great focus so we can consider how to address this huge leak in our boat.

The rest of 2023 saw the always wonderful ways we as Trinity United Church kept working to help “God in God’s love.” Another fantastic year for our Vacation Bible School! The Friends, Food and Fun group never missed a beat! Our Sunday School continues to serve young people both new to the community and long-time! Our Halloween Carnival was a smash! We honoured Veterans by our presence at Cemetery Services and Remembrance Sunday. We had our first “Community Meal” in November – a big success! Volunteers contributed hours of time to our Tech Team, Finance Team, Worship Team, Fellowship and Fund Development Teams. Our Membership & Pastoral Care ministry grew with more and more calls to check in with more and more of you, sending cards for special occasions and more. Our choir met, rehearsed, and sang, beautifully. And countless other ways. You all

make what we do and who we are possible – thank you!

We said goodbye in death to some very special members we will continue to miss: John Lewchuk, Vera Studnicki, Irma Brathwaite, Gladys Snelgrove, and Mary Yankowski, to name a few.

2023 was also a year of celebrations – John and Beverley Bridgman’s 50th Wedding anniversary and renewal of vows on April 16 was a great day of joy! The weddings of Veronica Heffernan and Mathieu Lizarraga on Sept 3, followed by Sabz Heffernan and Angela Brett on October 6, made the fall a special time for many.

You also gave of my time to the wider work of our church. I continued to serve on the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board (along with Gary Tompkins!), shepherding candidates for ministry along towards their calls. I work with the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle of Nakonha:Ka Regional Council. I served on two granting committees – the Erskine & American and Mountainside Fund, and the (Indigenous) Justice & Reconciliation Fund of the United Church of Canada.

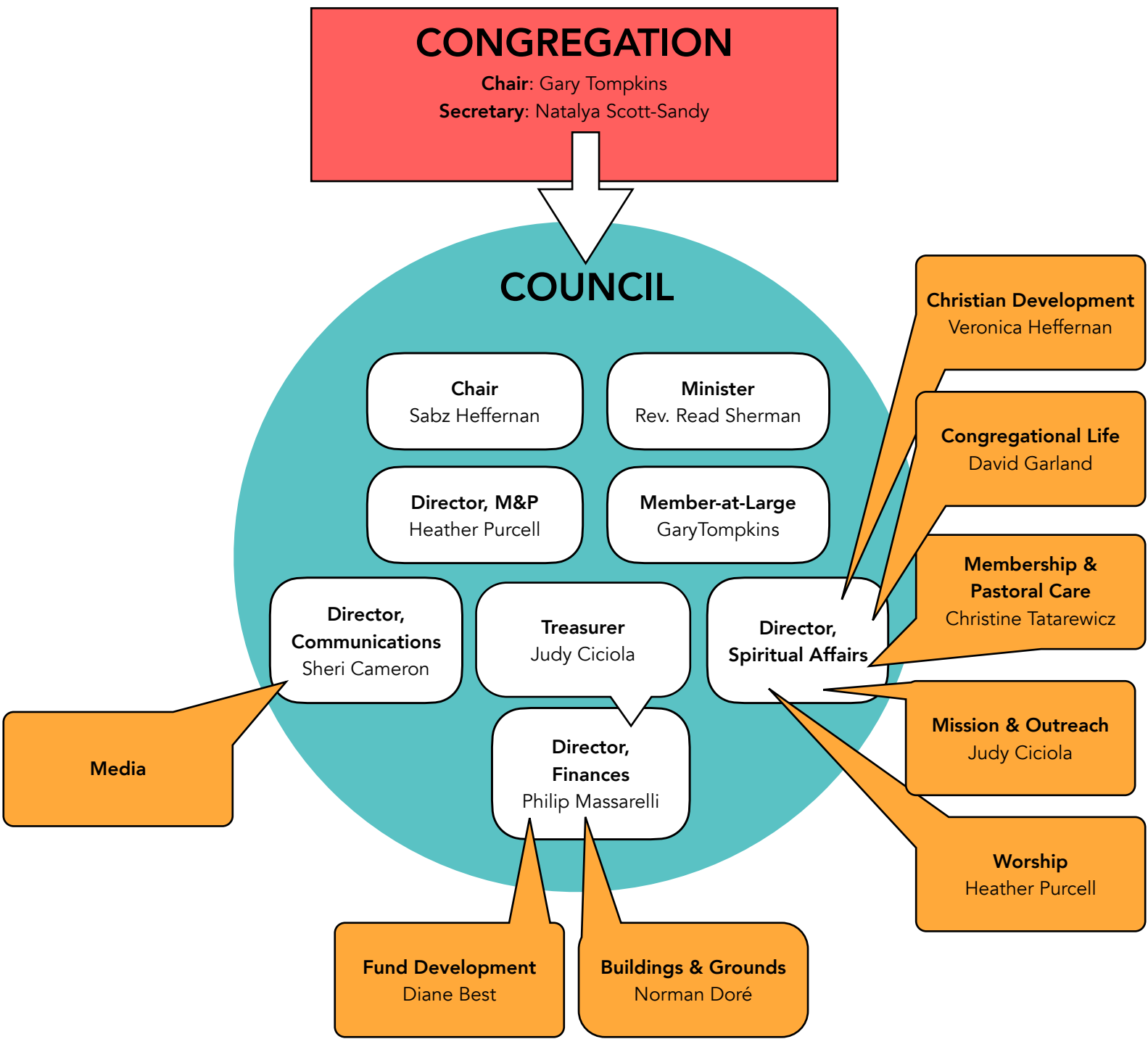
There is so much more I could share! Thank you for your support of what I do, and all the ways we kept the boat afloat despite the challenging times we are living through. With Jesus as our guide, we did our best in 2023 to serve God and find new joy! I’m looking forward to better and more in 2024..... 😊

God bless and much love in Christ,

Read

TRINITY GOVERNANCE

In 2019, our church officially moved from an Official Board governance model to the more widely-used Council model. Under this model, Council meets regularly to set the broad leadership strokes for the church's direction. From there, the Ministry Leaders work with their ministries to set projects and activities in motion.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Sabz Heffernan

It feels fitting that I am writing this message, having reached my term limit as Chair, on Transfiguration Sunday. A quick Google search reveals transfiguration to mean “a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state”, and I can not think of a better way to describe the last five years here at Trinity.

Within that time, we have successfully implemented a new local governing structure, grown despite a pandemic, expanded our offerings to online services, and made groundbreaking alliances that serve to spread the Good Word far further than one church can alone (along with so much more!). I am not saying there weren't bumps in the road - Regional is still struggling to define the parameters of our relationship with Église Sainte Claire for example - but, we've banded together and come out stronger for it.

It is with mixed feelings that I leave several ambitious projects yet unfulfilled. I regret nothing, as it was imperative to ensure the strength of our communities' foundation before building up. Regardless, we have taken promising steps towards achieving our big-picture goals. I must now pass the torch to the next person that will step into the role of Chair.

Among other things, I look forward to seeing more progress on the following projects:

- Better connection internally and within the wider community.
- Closer alliance with Indigenous Peoples in our region
- Better allyship with LGBTQ2S+ communities
- Optimal use of our building as a means of outreach and of financial security



While serving as Chair, I have been repeatedly humbled and uplifted by the gifts and commitments that many have dedicated to the betterment of our community and beyond. Bumps in the road were faced with grace and resilience as we came to know ourselves and build anew.

Truly, Trinity's transfiguration has been, and continues to be, quite beautiful. This may be my last submission as Chair but, you best believe I will be around to continue along our shared path of spiritual growth. I'm excited to see what else we accomplish under new leadership.

Yours,
Sabz

MINISTRIES



Worship

Ministry Leader: Heather Purcell

A small but passionate Worship Ministry met regularly with Rev. Read to discuss the flow of the service as well as the themes and curriculum that was used by the church as a whole. In an attempt to make the worship service more interactive (and hopefully more engaging for our young people), Sheri Cameron continued to do a small-group discussion format for our Moment for All Ages. This often included a small craft or art activity related to the theme of the day. The theme we focused on from September was "Seeking God Together". Over the summer we continued our Joint Worship with Hudon and Mount Royal United Churches. And in December, we held our Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services. All of our services are hybrid services - both in-person and on Zoom. All services can be viewed on Youtube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@trinityunitedchurch4705>

(submitted by Heather Purcell)



Congregational Life

Ministry Leader: David Garland

This year we have had a number of fellowship events: soup luncheon after church, desserts after Christmas eve service, Breakfast with Santa, and Easter Breakfast with a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Our big event was our last one: a Veterans brunch with the Canadian Legion Branch 29. This year we had one member from Branch 66 as well as members from provincial command of the Canadian legion. We had the Help of Cadets from 518 Rosemount, we honoured 2 vets that was present (Thomas Irvine and Edward Leinen) as well as 11 that are no longer with us (Lepold Demontigny, Fredrick and Una Adams, Thomas Pottle, Wilford Seymour, Robert Macleod). It was a big success! Thanks to all those who helped me with this event. The Legion has asked if we will make it a annual event. My hope is whoever takes this position next year will keep this going. *(submitted by David Garland)*

Also as part of the life of the church, many people continued to gather on Zoom for the weekly "Living Room" discussions and Prayer Group.

Friends, Food, and Fun continued to meet weekly. Guests enjoyed either a physical activity (beanbag toss, etc) or a sit-down activity (bingo, crafts) and conversed over lunch. Participants also had a monthly outing to a bowling alley, and there were offsite visits to members' homes, the Train Museum, and even Quebec City! Activities were offered in-person and on Zoom, where possible.

We also had a community potluck, a fancy Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings! *(submitted by Sheri Cameron)*





Christian Development

Ministry Leader: Veronica Heffernan

In January 2023 we were back in our cozy Sunday School, yet still wearing masks. (Doesn't that seem so long ago?).

In February, we went to Worshiplude, taking a full two vans for people with us. It was FREEZING! After trying to stay out for a bit, we ended up visiting museums before joining other youth at a nighttime worship service. Despite the cold, we had a wonderful time. In order to offset some of the costs, we organized a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

In March we repainted the stairway leading up the Memorial Hall and welcomed approximately 30 youth who stayed the weekend for Youth Forum.

In April we celebrated Easter with its joyous Easter egg hunt. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny!

In July we welcomed over 20 children in this year's VBS: Discovery on Adventure Island. We were whisked away to a fantastical island where we used clues from the Bible to discover the hidden locations of 5 lanterns, aided by our trusty sidekick, Beacon.



In August a small but mighty group of us walked in the Pride Parade. However, since we were the only church with a banner, it looks like everyone from the United Church attended Trinity!

In September we had our yearly Blessings of the Backpacks event and many of our VBS families attended, much to our delighted surprise. Then we went bowling!

In October we organized a Halloween carnival event for the neighbourhood which was also well attended.

In December we went shopping for the Best Gift Fund. We had a sleepover and our Sunday School put on our annual Christmas pageant. We also made gingerbread cookies at Dough Holy Night.

In "big church", we are getting used to the Moment for All Ages and are even getting brave enough to join adult groups. On the last Sunday of every month, we held Family Sunday: a day where parents come to Sunday School with us!

It's been quite the year and we are looking forward to 2024!

(submitted by Sheri Cameron)



Mission & Outreach

Ministry Leader: Judy Ciciola

This year was a quiet year for our Mission & Outreach Ministry, but we did sell frozen dinners to support Mission & Service. *(submitted by Judy Ciciola)*

Our VBS day camp was an outreach to our neighbourhood and saw over 20 children rotate through camp this summer. *(submitted by Sheri Cameron)*



Fund Development

Ministry Leader: Diane Best

Hello, everyone, this was a good year for my team and I. We had breakfast with Santa, Memorial bulbs, I made bread which was and still is an ongoing fundraiser. There was also a movie rental. This is a short and sweet little report. Thanks for all your support in the fundraising activities that I had. We had a little garage sale that connected with breakfast with Santa.

God bless you. (submitted by Diane Best)



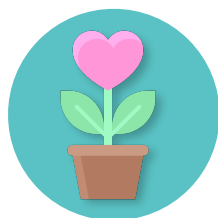
Baking buddies Carol Cunningham and Linda Williams held Trinity's Advent Bake Sale on Sunday, December 3, 2023. We raised a grand total of \$820.00 for the Benevolence Fund. To name a few items, we had jams, squares, tarts, cookies, and the very popular sausage rolls.

Everyone was invited to join us downstairs for coffee and conversation while Julia's music played in the background. It was a wonderful time for all and we are thankful for your generous support for the Benevolence Fund.

We trust you all enjoyed your goodies as much as we enjoyed baking them!

Carol and Linda

(submitted by Carol Cunningham)



Membership & Pastoral Care

Ministry Leader: Christine Tatarewicz

What I have accomplished (I hope I did well in Gods' Eyes), in 2023 was connect with shut-ins, reminding them that they are not alone - that they are still part of a loving Church Community, that they are cared for and prayed for. Reaching out by phone or visiting along with Rev Read, or on my own, humbled me. I was humbled by the personal life stories shared with me. These encounters were grace-filled moments.

Doing Pastoral work goes much further than just the shut - ins, pastoral ministry is spread along to the shut - in families. Showing them that Trinity United Church, is a loving family community. To me, I am Blessed to have been able to accomplish this in 2023.

(submitted by Christine Tatarewicz)



Buildings & Grounds

Ministry Leader: Norman Doré

This past year's work consisted of repairs to the latch for the 7th Avenue entrance door. Bathrooms received most of the improvement with the installation of security bars in both men and women's bathrooms, procurement of a booster seat in the men's bathroom for the toilet and painting of the wall behind the toilet and sink in the women's bathroom. Two major unusable items were removed; the oven in the small kitchen near the Sunday school to create more storage space and the broken pew in the back of the sanctuary. The tree in the 7th ave yard was trimmed.

All above work was performed at no cost to the church.

Finally, the producers of a movie which was shot in September donated a basketball net for the Scouts.

Special thanks go out to Ashley Verhaegue, John Brosseau, and John Bridgman for their continued dedication to the upkeep of Trinity's buildings and grounds.

Yours in Christ,

Norman Doré



Media

Ministry Leader: Mikayla-Aimee (resigned)

Interim Ministry Leader: Natalya Scott-Sandy

The Media Ministry (also called the Tech Team) was extremely active on Slack, Trinity's communication channel. Gary Tompkins, Glenn Funamoto, and Natalya Scott-Sandy met online weekly to coordinate and produce the wonderful presentations that you see on the screen weekly. Rosemary Warren helps with the technical requirements at Anjou United too. We also handle all the Zoom logins, and record and upload the Sunday worship services so that everyone may view them at a later date.

Part of the team also goes to the church during the week to find strategies to fix the glitches that are present during Sunday services. This year we purchased two cordless microphones.

It's a lot of work, but it's fun work, and the team get along very well!

(submitted by Natalya Scott-Sandy)





Friends, Food, and Fun: Rosemary Warren

Friends, Food, and Fun has now been running for a year and a half. Every Thursday, our group meets for a stimulating activity, either at Trinity or offsite; a tasty lunch; and great fellowship.

During the past year, we have had many pleasures. We learned to play Rummikub and OKO. We listened to presentations by Read. We enjoyed movies, both in the cinema and in the gym. We tapped into our artistic sides with handicrafts, cookie decorating, and an art hive. Road trips to museums in Montreal, St. Constant, and Quebec City were grand adventures. And we don't let the weather, or the Excuse for Everything, stop us from having fun! We've bowled through blizzards, played games at Read's house during a tornado, and set up a surprise party after a milestone birthday got derailed by C***D.

Our regulars love to take pictures! For our first anniversary in May, we created a collage that hangs in the Narthex. We also launched a Dropbox site to share our photos and videos. A link gets sent for that week's photos to each person who attends. In late 2023, the site was broadened to include other activities at Trinity that generated lots of photos, such as the Halloween Carnival and the community dinner in November.

We've established a partnership with Gay & Grey, an organization for the English-speaking 2SLGBTQIA+ community aged 50 and older. Their monthly potlucks are open to non-members, and 5 folks from Trinity have attended, with two joining G&G too.

For 2024, we look forward to continuing our Thursday tradition. Anyone who wants to help make our day special by leading an activity, cooking (or coordinating) lunch, or driving a carpool, is more than welcome. We want to try miniature golf again -- when the course is actually open! Another possible partnership is in the works with Union United Church -- their Pioneers group also meets on a Thursday starting in April.

Adults of any age are welcome -- there is always room for one more. Laughter and good times are always on the menu.



2023 STATISTICS

Baptisms

GREYSON CREED LECLAIR

Born: Dec. 16, 2022

Baptized: July 9, 2023

YANNICK BRANDON MARCANTONIO

Born: July 16, 2023

Baptized: September 3, 2023

Marriages

VERONICA HEFFERNAN & MATHIEU LIZARRAGA

Married: September 3, 2023

SABZ HEFFERNAN & ANGELA BRETT

Married: October 6, 2023

Deaths

MARIA TURANSKI (nee GENGA)

Died: Dec. 30, 2022

Memorial: Jan. 12, 2023

VERA STUDNICKI

Died: Jan. 30, 2023

Memorial: Feb. 19, 2023

JOHN LEWCHUK

Died: Feb. 22, 2023

Memorial: March 5, 2023

IRMA BRATHWAITE (nee SKEETE)

Died: March 30, 2023

Memorial: April 15, 2023

GLADYS SNELGROVE (nee POTTLE)

Died: June 2, 2023

Memorial: June 9, 2023

GERALD BRADSHAW

Died: June 5, 2023

Memorial: June 15, 2023

MARY YANKOWSKI (nee TOKAR)

Died: July 7, 2023

Memorial: July 17, 2023

ROBERT DAVID HAINES

Died: Nov. 22, 2023

Memorial: Dec. 3, 2023

Membership

RECEIVED BY PROFESSION OF FAITH:

RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER:

FRED ROWE March 4, 2023

ROSEMARY SNELGROVE

November 19, 2023

REMOVED FROM ACTIVE ROLL DUE TO DEATH:

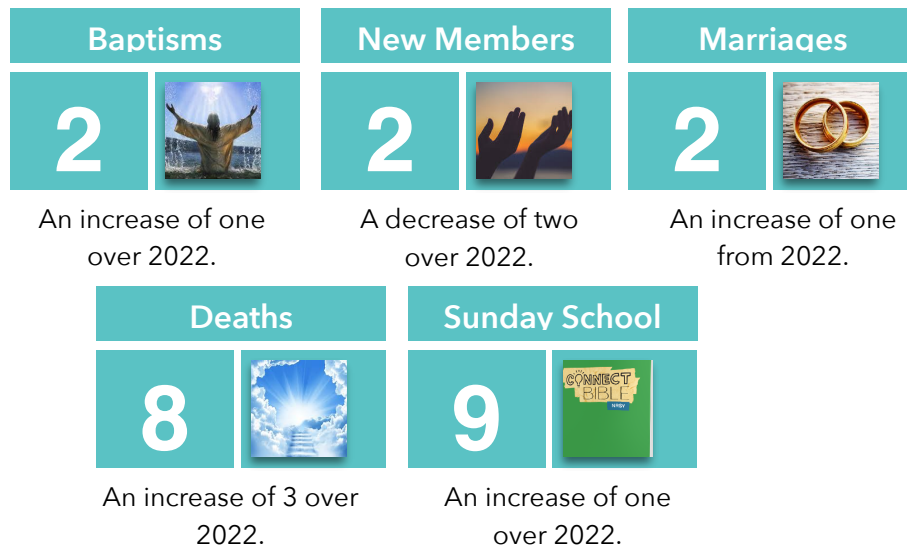
VERA STUDNICKI

JOHN LEWCHUK

IRMA BRATHWAITE

GLADYS SNELGROVE

MARY YANKOWSKI





SCOUTING

The Trinity Scout Group continued its mission to give our youth the opportunity to grow through personalized adventures.

The 2023 year saw new volunteers join the group and with their fresh perspectives and mentorship, the Trinity Scout Group was able to attend camps during all seasons.

Our membership has stayed stable with youth staying at least 2-3 years. 2023 gave us the opportunity to focus on education, within our Scouting mission.

We also attended an EMSB 'parent-con' where we had the opportunity to discuss with parents and their children the unique Trinity program revered by Quebec Council.

We were also able to present our Trinity Scouts Higher Education Bursary for the first time, for Trinity Scouts member attending post-secondary education. Two bursaries were presented at our annual Philies Award Ceremony due to missing a year because of Covid restrictions. One was presented to Katherine Hetu, who started with Trinity Scouts back in 2011 when she was six years old and the 2023 recipient was Jonathan Hetu who also started with Trinity Scouts in 2011 when he was five years old.

This sounds kind of simplified and 'cold' but the stuff we can't explain is the pride from my Scouts who built a fire in the snow and were able to cook on it. The sense of accomplishment our Beavers felt as they swam up to Cubs. Our Beavers amazement as their 'playing in dirt' craft actually produced flowers and then they planted flowers in front of the church. There's a very deep sense of pride from all our members- especially our Scouters, to be part of a family that is carrying on a tradition that has been around since 1911! About 5 years ago we re-branded ourselves as "Trinity Scouts Group", but we always refer to ourselves as the 'Trinity Family'.

Yours in Scouting,
Jax - Scouter Leo Frenza
Group Commissioner
Trinity Scouts
514 949-7555



A teal-colored oval shape is centered at the bottom of the page. Inside this oval, the text "Trinity United Church" is written in white, followed by the website address "trinityuc.net" which is underlined, and the year "2023" below it.

Trinity United Church
trinityuc.net
2023