

The Trinity Times

Diocesan conference energizes volunteers

By Anne Levy-Ward

Attracting, engaging, managing and nurturing volunteers was the theme of an Anglican Diocese of Toronto conference hosted by Trinity Streetsville on November 6 and 7.

A group of staff and lay leaders (Patricia Wood, Director of Congregational Care; Diane Toycen, Director of Programming and Parish Life; Heidi Czulinski, Children's Ministry Co-ordinator and Charles Ansell, lay leader) joined representatives from several churches across the diocese at "Energizing Volunteers," which featured two highly respected leaders in the world of volunteer leadership: Marilyn McKenzie and Susanne Lawson.

The conference was organized to provide clergy, church staff and lay leaders with current tools, techniques, and principles for effective volunteer management, and to provide a working forum to build a volunteer leadership strategy. Topics included:

- unique volunteer management implementation strategies;
- expanding volunteer engagement;
- practical tools and techniques;
- templates to guide work and save time;
- recruitment and retention strategies to maximize opportunities for lay volunteer ministry within the congregation; and principles of volunteer management for churches.



Patricia Wood found the conference challenging and stimulating. "In addition to reinforcing the importance of recognizing our volunteers who give of their time and talents, we also heard about new thinking about why people volunteer; how they prefer to use their time; how to optimize the key elements within the volunteer leadership cycle; and how to identify ministry opportunities for youth and for families who want to volunteer together," she said. "We learned, too, about how important it is for us to connect the ministry role with its contribution not only to the mission of Trinity, but also to the individual's personal spiritual growth. This was a major take-away for those who attended and we look forward to being more intentional making these connections."

She says Trinity's group will meet again to debrief on what they learned, and to develop strategies for incorporating some of the key concepts here at Trinity. A conference follow-up session is planned for the New Year.

Conference or no, Trinity's volunteers already have plenty of energy. Read about some of them on the following pages.

Inside...

Trinity volunteers speak up	2-5
Excitement in F.R.O.G. Junction	7
S.I.G. happenings	8-9
Tips on helping a child read	11

Volunteering at Trinity

It's more than volunteering – it's ministry

By Laura Leavens

Why do people volunteer? Ask a high school student and he or she will likely say, “Because I have to get 40 hours of volunteer experience so I can graduate.”

Ask someone just out of school and she or he might say, “Because I’m trying to get my foot in the door of a place I want to work.”

The Trinity Times asked several parishioners why they volunteer at Trinity, and here’s what *they* said:

John Moore volunteers because Trinity has been a very important part of his family’s life



and he wants to give back. “I want to have balance in my life, and like to have some volunteer activity,” he says. He’s been volunteering on and off for seven years. The best thing about his current role on the Parish Executive Committee (PEC) is

the chance it gives him to apply his skills to make a contribution to the business and operations of the church, “plus I get to be part of a very strong team of individuals.” It also helps his growth as a Christian. “The PEC role is a reminder and validation that we all need to do our part to be good stewards of the business of the church to ensure that a healthy business environment prevails, so that God’s work may flourish within the congregation,” he says.

Renate Morris started greeting when she arrived at Trinity five years ago. She likes being with friendly people and the feeling that she’s spending her time helping others. She volunteers because she “feels at home and welcome at Trinity.” In addition to being a Greeter, Renate is a Money Counter and heads the Movie Special Interest Group. Regarding Christian growth, Renate says that being with other people makes her aware of her shortcomings, which are so easy to forget when she is by herself. She prays that she’ll be “able to change, become a better team player, control her tongue, be on time, and go out with others even when she definitely does not feel like it.”

Cherie Arrigo became a LIFE group leader in September 2009. “I volunteer because to me it means that I am making a more serious commitment to grow in my faith in Jesus and to help others do the same, even though we are all at different stages in our faith.” Most of all, she likes the diverse opinions and thoughts shared, the support her group members give each other and the friendships she has made. “This ministry is helping me understand what my purpose in life is, open my heart and allow Him to love me so that I can completely put my faith and trust in Him and learn to follow His teachings,” she says.

Stephen Hime has served in various capacities at churches for as long as he can remember. He’s been a Stephen Minister since 2002. He says, “Trinity being my church home, I feel a calling to respond to God in service here. Rather than an obligation, though, it is a thankful response for what He



has done for me, and a way to share His love with others.” What he enjoys most are: “the relationships developed with the team and others in the church, and of course with those I have

provided care for. It is very rewarding and a growing experience.” Stephen notes that there is extensive training, initially and ongoing, in the Stephen Ministry program and a host of resources to tap into. “Combined with the experience of walking alongside people in need, it has made me a more caring Christian within the ministry itself, and in all my other relationships.”

“I passionately believe that the local church plays an integral and vital role on many levels, from introducing people to the teachings of Jesus to making many of those lessons come to life in practical



form, both in our local community and far beyond,” says **Nancy Gwynne-Vaughan**. “The Bible clearly teaches us to use the talents we are given to further God’s work. Tremendous personal growth and fulfillment can come from participating in church ministry.” Her family started attending Trinity in the summer of 2008 and Nancy has been part of the music ministry since joining

the choir last Christmas, having been involved in church music in one form or another for 34 years. She most appreciates the sense of purpose and community within the membership of the Worship and Arts Ministry.

“Serving in such a visible ministry, I feel a real responsibility to do everything I can to set a positive tone for the morning, to check that my heart and my attitude are in the right place, and to ensure that the words I am singing are genuine,” she says. “Life often gets in the way of that if you’ve just had a huge fight with your family on the way to church, if the equipment is acting up or if you have something weighing heavy on your mind. It is an ongoing growth experience for me to learn to set aside what I may be thinking or feeling, what I may or may not be in the mood to do, and let God use whatever talents I have for His purpose.”

John Toth says he volunteers because “God gave us all talents and he meant for us to share them – don’t hide your light under a bushel.” In addition to being in the choir and on the AV team, he has been running the Art Special Interest Group for about five years. He most enjoys helping people connect and discover capabilities they might otherwise have missed. “It gives them the opportunity to help each other as well,” he says. “Surprisingly, it really helps to understand the times and circumstances in which Jesus lived. For example, what did the country look like and how were the people dressed? It also raises some very interesting questions such as ‘why were none of the disciples artists?’ and ‘why are there no pictures of Jesus?’ We know there were pictures of Caesar, as Jesus pointed out his face on a coin, but none of Jesus himself.”

Sandi Howell has a total of 39 years of experience in children's ministry and teaching ESL, four and three of those years, respectively, at Trinity. Sandi and her husband Don began in children's ministry when their own children were small, and although their brood is now long past FROG Junction age, she and Don continue to teach the Grade 4, 5, and 6 children. "It is a joy to help them in their journey in Christ as they are moving from concrete thinking to abstract thinking," says Sandi.



After returning from overseas years ago and coming to Ontario for the first time (she's from western Canada), Sandi struggled to belong to a culture that was supposed to be hers. Since she had been teaching ESL

overseas, it was natural to volunteer to help with newcomers. The best parts about volunteering, she says, are seeing the youth mature in their Christian faith and ask good questions, and seeing the ESL newcomers becoming comfortable with Canada, speaking English more confidently, and being able to consider things about Jesus. "Most of all," she says, "I appreciate being trusted by Trinity leadership to be careful, sensitive, safe and gentle with those we are caring for. It encourages us as we see God at work, as we prayerfully bring the needs of those we are in contact with. And keeping in contact with God helps remind us that we are instruments and tools for conveying His *agape* love, especially when that is usually all that youth and newcomers will remember in the future."

Barbara Cochrane has volunteered at the Events Table, Seniors' Lunch, and Parish Life Committee since coming to Trinity three years ago. She used to run a catering business and when she came to the newcomers' lunch she found Diane



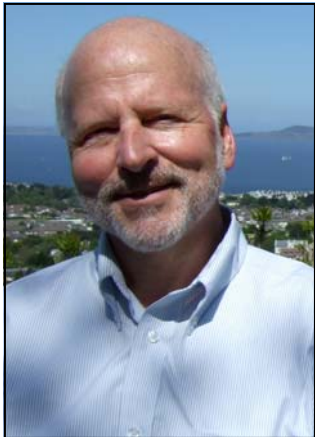
Fisher all by herself in the kitchen. She told her, "I'd like to help," and hasn't stopped. Barbara has volunteered all her life: with developmentally delayed children, at a seniors' home, and at a food bank in Guelph. "I enjoy it," she says. "If you give your time you get a lot back. It fills me." She volunteers at Trinity because she wants to be part of the church family. "The church is a family if you let yourself be a part of it. I found I can fit into the family of this church."



Mhairi Young

was commissioned as a Stephen Minister in last June. She felt she could do the job because she's good at listening and has gone through difficult things in life. "Broken people can help other broken people," she says. Through the training, she feels that she grew as a Christian, as now she prays more purposefully, for other Stephen Ministers and for all those who are receiving care, de-

spite not knowing their identities due to the confidentiality of the ministry. She's also involved in the Music Ministry – both in choir and on a worship team. “I think that when I sing, God smiles,” she says. “It's not about me. I want people to feel moved by what I sing, because I'm moved by it.” Mhairi was awed when she saw all that went into preparation for a service – the sermon, the Scripture and the choice of songs – which was all done prayerfully. It has made her prayer life more purposeful.



Mark Woollard

volunteers at Trinity because he, too, wants to “give back.” “It's my spiritual home and I want it to thrive,” he says. About eight years ago when he took early retirement from his government social policy career, he

took the LifeKeys course, which helped him get to know himself better and sort out his passions from the things he doesn't like doing. “So now, with extra time available, I find it pretty easy to assess my fit with a volunteer opportunity and can comfortably say ‘Yes, that's me’ or ‘No thanks, that's not me.’” He has been volunteering in some areas for more than 10 years – LIFE group leader, videographer, course leader/table leader. More recently, he's been a Sunday Service Leader and “homily guy” with the Traveling Worship team. (giving short sermons to seniors in care settings.) He likes being able to communicate God's love and encouragement to people. “Volunteering gives me an incentive, a larger purpose, for my personal Bible study, prayer and reading

of Christian authors. It encourages me to dig deeper to be able to pass it on. In the end, I think I get more out of it than the people I have a chance to lead and speak to.”

Greeter **Rik Bradshaw** finds greeting to be a great way to meet and get to know other members of the congregation, learn to spot new people and help them out if they have kids, etc. “It's hard being new (we know!) or not knowing where you're going.” He likes trying to help make people's first experience at Trinity a positive one. Rik is also involved in Youth Ministry. “When I joined in 2008, there was a shortage of leaders after a tremendous growth in the ministry and I hoped I had some skills that would serve it and the youth well,” he says. “Obviously, I thought the experience with teenagers would help me with my own boys in years to come, although I'm not sure now whether I feel more prepared or petrified!”

“Youth ministry is a great, fun place to be,” he adds. “It's a positive, refreshing environment. The senior youth are young enough that over a year you can offer them a vision of love and compassion so different from the materialism and ‘individual-first’ messages of today's culture, and really see a difference. It's very rewarding. Because of their age, the senior youth get into in-depth discussions and questions, and talking with them, researching the answers and sharing my own faith is a great way to improve my own spiritual growth, as well. Jon Webster's leadership, faith and enthusiasm are not only a great influence on the youth, but also on his leadership team.”

A note from the editor

Let's hear it for Joseph

Everyone knows that Baby Jesus is the star of the Nativity story, with Mary in a strong supporting role (or co-starring, if you're Roman Catholic). We hear and sing about them, about the angels, about the shepherds, about the wise men – even about the animals in the stable. But what about the man whose ancestral home they were visiting, who defied scandal to take Mary as his wife, who was prepared to raise someone else's son as his own – where are the carols about Joseph?



We don't know much about him, other than he was a carpenter descended from King David, and he is really a bit player in the second chapter of Luke. (Or, as the

MC said to my husband at our wedding: "You're just a prop!") But read the first two chapters of Matthew and you'll see what a sterling character Joseph was.

When it became evident that Mary, his promised bride was pregnant and not by him, Joseph was of a mind to "put her away privily" as it says in the King James Version – that is, to hush it up and send her away to have the baby, to spare her reputation. A lesser man would have cast her out and had her stoned, to save face at her expense.

Then an angel came to him in a dream. Now, I don't think Joseph was in the habit of conversing with supernatural beings; I suspect he didn't converse with natural beings all

that much, either – I think of him as the prototypical strong, silent type, who doesn't say much but works hard and gets a lot done.

But Joseph stepped out in faith and believed the angel, taking Mary as his wife despite her pregnancy and shielding her from the censure of the world while exposing himself to ridicule from the guys down at the lumberyard.

And then the angel showed up again. Herod was killing baby boys, and the angel told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and flee – all the way to Egypt. By this time, Joseph was probably a bit more used to heavenly messengers, and he'd already had proof that their word was good, so he very prudently packed up his little family that very night and got out of Dodge, not returning to Nazareth until, one last time, an angel visited to give him the all-clear.

What a man Joseph was – righteous, kind, honourable and hard-working, as well as brave, swift to act and far-seeing – everything a woman could ask for in a husband, or a child in a father! Mary was blessed among women to bear Jesus, but she was also blessed to be married to Joseph.

So when you're singing about the baby in the manger this Christmas, give a thought to that good, quiet man standing off to one side, whose courage, love and care helped it all happen.

A blessed Christmas to you and all the ones you love, from all of us at the Trinity Times!

Anne

Christmas excitement building in F.R.O.G. Junction!

By Heather Stevenson

The children of F.R.O.G. Junction have been busy preparing for Christmas. The 'tweens are especially hard at work preparing and rehearsing for the Children's Christmas Eve service, themed as a birthday party for Jesus. We will celebrate the birth of our Saviour, complete with party hats, loot bags and a dramatization of the Nativity, as presented through the eyes of children. We are very proud of our children who are taking on a leadership role for this service, including reading scripture, greeting and performing in the dramatic presentation. It will be an uplifting and inspirational service.



Lighting the Advent Wreath



Derek & Cameron Burgess making a Gingerbread House

On Sundays throughout Advent, we have come together in our F.R.O.G. Junction worship time to sing carols, light the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy and love while learning about the importance of preparing for Jesus' birth. Although we know that it is important to wait and prepare for Jesus, it is very hard, and we're glad that it is almost over, that Christmas is almost here!

Through our World Vision Advent curriculum, we've learned that children around the world have a lot in common, and that as Christians we can help our friends around the world through gifts from World Vision. We collected money throughout Advent and will be choosing a gift to send to a friend on the other side of the world. It is amazing how many small donations and efforts can work together to bring a merry Christmas to people all around the world.

Someone's in the kitchen with Siegrid and Sandra ...

Siegrid Engler and Sandra Gray co-lead Trinity's **Cooking Special Interest Group**. Its first meeting was in November, 2009 and meetings are scheduled once a month for the Tuesday morning group (9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.), and once a month for the Wednesday evening group (7:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.) from January to May, 2010. There is a maximum of eight participants per group.



Nancy Stevens, Sandra Gray & Elizabeth Jinadu at work.

“We had six in each of the November groups,” says Siegrid. “The purpose of the group is to prepare food for the freezer that is *“oven ready”*, economical and nutritious, that can go from the freezer to the oven/crockpot. Most of the meals are not pre-cooked, which means that you can enjoy fresh-cooked meals on a daily basis.”

“This method is great for busy people just like us. If you're someone who needs to get more organized, save money, time and have great meals, this is the group for you. If you're someone who needs to get more organized, save money, time and have great meals, this is the group for you. Please note: you will be

preparing the main course only.”

Menus will be pre-set. Siegrid does the grocery shopping and delivers it to the church the day of the cook-off. For a maximum of \$50 at the end of the evening, you can have 5 different meals, each serving four people. Units of two servings can also be purchased to accommodate larger/smaller families. The cost includes packaging materials and the approximate cost per serving works out to \$2.50.

There's another reason for this group: “The group also provides an opportunity for fellowship,” says Siegrid.

The next Tuesday morning groups are: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11, 2010.

The next Wednesday evening sessions are: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14 and May 12, 2010.

Please note that payment for each session must be received a week before the session so that numbers can be confirmed prior to shopping.

Sample menu items include:

Cantonese Chicken
Barbeque Porkchops
Meatballs/Meatloaf
Swiss Steak
Hamburger Soup

If you want to get cooking, contact Siegrid (905) 897-1330 and Sandra (905) 569-7554.



Siegrid Engler

Sunday matinee fellowship at the Movie S.I.G.

By Laura Leavens

Many people like going to the movies, but some don't always have someone to go with. To remedy that situation for Trinity parishioners, Renate Morris organized the Movie SIG (Special Interest Group) a couple of years ago. Several parishioners – all ladies (so far) – signed up and Renate e-mails them each month, making suggestions about what movies they might want to see and where. Group members state their preferences by “replying to all,” and Renate tallies the responses and decides on the movie of the month.

The group goes to Sunday matinees, allowing members to go home after church, do errands, then head to the theatre for some rest and relaxation. Different theatres are chosen according to what's playing, and to allow for the fact that some people live in the south end of the city and some in the north end. Sometimes the SIG members go to the Cinestarz theatre and pay a supremely reasonable \$3 to see a movie that's been out for a few months.

After watching the movie, those who want to go out to dinner afterwards do so, for an opportunity to talk about the movie and socialize.

Membership ebbs and flows. There are about 20 names on the monthly e-mail list, with an average of six moviegoers each month. Renate says that in November the club welcomed four new members, three from outside of Trinity, but two of whom belong to the church's knitting group.

One of the obstacles to higher attendance is the fact that avid moviegoers might have already seen the suggested movie of the month. However, compromises are possible and on more than one occasion, if the movie

of choice was playing at a multiplex, half of the group watched it, and the rest, who had already seen it, watched another, and met up afterwards. This works well as long as both movies finish reasonably close together. If you like movies and are interested in joining the club, speak to Renate.

Trinity CAMERA CLUB S.I.G.

If you are interested in photography, want to learn more about using your camera, software and post shooting essentials, photography skills and much, much more...come to the Camera Club. They will have their first meeting on **Monday, January 4 @ 7:30 p.m.** in the Seminar Room, and continuing on 1st & 3rd Monday nights each month. Experienced photographers Suresh Jacobs and Peter Little will be your guides. More details are available at www.trinitycameraclub.ca or pick up a handout at the Events Table.



Suresh Jacobs will teach you how to improve your photos.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE FUN!



Neufeld family constructing their gingerbread house



Meghan & Essence Rife add finishing touches



Christmas story time with Louise Ghobrial



Charlotte Eckersley & grandmother Rita Gunsten



Max & Ali Bradshaw and Kim Wheeler

Reading that matters

Helping a child learn to read

“There is no mightier conquest than to teach a child the magic of reading” – James McBride



For many years I have had the joy and the privilege of helping children grow as readers by volunteering as a reading coach in neighborhood schools. While some children make rapid progress in learning to read and quickly become independent readers, most children need help, encouragement and dedicated parental support to learn how to read. I would like to share with you some tips I have learned as a parent and a reading coach:

- **Find a time each day** to sit in a quiet spot with your child to read a book – no electronics nearby to interrupt!
- **Start with 5-10 minutes** and increase as you both enjoy this time together.
- **Choose a book that is right for your child.** You will know when the book is too hard because your child will struggle repeatedly. If that happens, say, “I’ll read this part,” and then choose another book. When a child reads most of the words correctly and makes only a few errors, then the book is just right.
- **Do lots of shared reading.** Read with expression and offer praise when your child reads smoothly and with expression. Point out the punctuation. Read to demonstrate how to pause at commas, how the voice goes up for a question, or down at the end of a sentence with a period. Then say, “Try that again and put your words together.”
- **Reading means making sense of a text;** early readers will pick their way through a text by sounding out words, but cannot tell you afterward what they have read. Be sure your child understands the text. Talk about the book, ask your child midway, “What do you think will

By Louise Ghobrial

happen next?” and always ask your child, “What did you think of the story?” Talk about the pictures and make connections to your child’s experiences.

- **When helping your child read unknown words,** suggest that your child skip that word, read the rest of the sentence and then go back to the unknown word. Try to lead the child in discovering the word by using the meaning of the sentence. Create a rhyming game for the unknown word. With compound words, put your finger over the second word and then the first to enable your child to put the longer word together.
- **When an error is made,** say something like, “That was a good try,” and let your child guess what the correct word is. Often children notice the mismatch between their own reading and the printed word. Give your child time to guess and self-correct.
- **There are many different books** – counting books, story books, informational books, etc. Make good use of your local and church libraries. Don’t miss an opportunity to read together. Cook and read recipes together. Read everything including labels, game instructions and road signs.
- **On car trips,** listen to books on tape and ask an older sibling to follow along in the book with the early reader.
- **If your child is becoming tired,** offer to finish reading the story. Always end on a positive note by pointing out the words or sentences your child read with ease. Let your child reread the new words learned that day.

Most of all, cherish that time together and don’t forget to read your favourite stories again... and again... and again.

Happy family reading time!

As our Trinity Librarian,
(Louise reads stories to the children in F.R.O.G. once a month)

The difference between a Christmas carol and a hymn, and other bits of musical Christmas lore

Why is some Christmas music sung in church and some not? Where did our favourite carols come from? And what does “in excelsis Deo” mean, anyway?

Many of the earliest Christmas carols were not only secular; they were, in fact, dance music. The word “carol” comes from the Italian *carolare*, meaning to sing, and a *carola* was a ring-dance, but the Italians used the old French word *querole* or *carole* for the music that went with these celebratory dances. Whatever their origin, they were never sung in church. In the early Middle Ages, dancing and joyous singing were not welcome in church services. Along with beginning the use of the crèche in church, St. Francis of Assisi also helped make caroling in church acceptable.

Many old familiar carols have been sung in English for so long that we forget that they originated in other languages. “Silent Night” and “O Christmas Tree” were of course written in German; “O Come All Ye Faithful” was first written in Latin, as was “Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming.” The Huron Carol was written in French (and Huron); the Carol of the Bells is from Ukraine. “Ding, Dong Merrily on High” is reputedly a French tune, with lyrics originally in Latin – *Gloria in excelsis Deo* means “Glory to God in the highest.”

And for the difference between a carol and a hymn, we refer to no less an authority than St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430): “If you praise God and do not sing, you utter no hymn. If you sing and praise not God you utter no hymn. If you praise anything which does not pertain to the praise of God, though in singing you praise, you utter no hymn.”

So now you know!

The Trinity Times is published by Trinity Anglican Church, Streetsville, for its parishioners and friends, and to the glory of God. Write or call us at:
69 Queen Street South, Mississauga, ON L5M 1K5
(905) 826-1901, Fax: (905) 826-8715
Editor: Anne Levy-Ward
Associate Editor: Laura Leavens
Production: Shirley Burgess
Advisor: Diane Toycen

Faith Development Course: “Growing Up Christian”

Saturday, January 23, 2010
@ 9:30am -12:30 pm

What happens to Christian teenagers when they grow up? How many retain their Christian faith and church involvement as they grow? How many drop out of church or out of faith, and how many of them eventually make their way back?

John Bowen, long-time friend of Trinity and successor to Harold Percy at the Wycliffe Institute of Evangelism, has done extensive research on this issue over the past few years and has recently published the book, *Growing Up Christian: Why Young People Stay I Church, Leave Church and (Sometimes) Come back to Church.*

In this seminar, John will share what he has learned through this research about the factors affecting the faith of teenagers who grow up in Christian families, and what I is they are hoping for in a church. This will be a fascinating seminar lead by an insightful and experienced Christian teacher.

Valentine
Dinner Dance
Friday, February 12
7:00 pm
@ the new
Vic Johnston Community
Centre
Ticket sales begin January 17