***Our Statement of Purpose***

As a community of faith led by the Spirit, we welcome all to worship God and live in loving, just and respectful relationship with each other, our neighbours and the earth. Inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ we strive to recognize the light of God in each person regardless of age, race, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, economic status or any other category by which the world may seek to divide. We challenge ourselves to deepen our relationship to God, to see the light of the divine in each person and in all creation, and to live the faith we proclaim in every aspect of our lives.

***Our Week at a Glance – April 8, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by congregation members, in memory of a loved one, or in honour of a loved one.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Mon. Apr. 9** Unit 11 – Marian Roffey, 11:30
 UCW General – Chapel, 1:00 **Wed. Apr. 11** Men’s Breakfast – Rocky Mountain House, 8:30
 Property – Library, 10:00
 Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00

 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00
 Finance – Library, 6:00

**Thurs. Apr. 12** Membership, Pastoral Care Fellowship – Marian Roffey, 10:00
 Worship & Music – Library, 6:00
 Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

***PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR OTHER EVENTS AND DETAILS***

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Apr. 8 – Merv Kusluski
 Apr. 15 – Debbie McDermid

**COUNTING OFFERING** Lois Desjardins & Doris Handford
 May: Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Apr. 8 – Bryan & Jackie Hollingworth
 Apr. 15 – Rick & Susan Lester

**Guest Speaker**: We welcome Felicite Stairs as our worship leader today.

**From the UCW**: Unit 11 UCW: Meeting Monday, April 9, 11:30 in the Marian Roffey Room.
UCW General Meeting, Monday, April 9, 1pm: Our neighbouring churches, St. Francis Xavier and Lady of Fatima sponsored a Syrian family who now reside in Renfrew. We have invited them to join us to share their experiences since arriving. There are seven of the family living here now including a new baby boy born here in Renfrew. Come and hear their story and join us in welcoming their family to our TSA family.

Soup Social: Lunch after the service on Sun., April 15. Freewill offering. Proceeds to Camp Lau-Ren to send a child to camp. (Camping Sunday will be on April 22.). *Unit 6, UCW*

Campbell Soup Labels: Just a reminder that we are no longer collecting these labels as the Campbell Co. has discontinued funding educational programs.

**Men’s Breakfast**: the next Men’s Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m. at the Rocky Mountain House.

**Property**: The Property Committee is meeting on Wednesday, April 11, at 10:00 in the Library.

**Upcoming Catering Events at TSA**: We need some help with two large catering events this month. We need sandwiches, squares, and those who could help set up and prepare. If you think you can help us, there are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Thank you for your assistance.

**Women's Retreat April 27-29**: Join us for a weekend of spiritual nurture and rejuvenation at Stillpoint House of Prayer in Springtown. There will be opportunities for group reflection on Scripture, our faith lives and what it means for us personally today, as well as time on our own to reflect, journal, create, walk or just sleep. Cost is $130, which covers room and board from Friday supper through lunch on Sunday. (Subsidies available.) A car will be going to TSA for worship Sunday morning for those who need to attend. For more information or to register contact Felicite Stairs at 432-5583 or felicite.stairs@gmail.com.

**Art & Spirituality Show**: Sunday, May 6. Bring the item you wish to share and show to Stewart Hall before the service, and pick it up after the social time when you are ready to go home. During April, please register your item with us in the Library.  If you have any queries, give me a call: Beulah Wright (432-3295), Laura Cooke and Ginette Raaphorst.

**Upcoming Presentation**: Join Tom Sidney at TSA on Wednesday May 16 at 7pm for a presentation entitled: "Tom Sidney's Gratitude Attitude - from Fears to Tears to Hope!". Tom will talk about his recent illness, which paralyzed him for a time, and his spiritual/emotional journey to recovery. This event is sponsored by the Renfrew and Area Foodbank and is free to attend with a donation to the food bank.

**Library**: If you loaned the new DVD, Lion, would you come and let us know in the Library. If you have DVDs you would like to donate to the Library, just bring them in. *Beulah, Laura, and Ginette*

**2018 Goals for Trinity-St. Andrew’s**

1. **We will strive to move towards a more sustainable future**. This requires a clear plan around our building needs and use.
2. *Living into our Statement of Purpose (we strive to recognize the light of God in each person regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression)*... **The Affirming Process will be completed with a vote on whether or not to become an Affirming Ministry to be held in October**.
3. *Living into our Statement of Purpose (we strive to recognize the light of God in each person regardless of physical ability)* ... **We will improve building accessibility by adding power assists to the Quarry St. entrance**.
4. *Living into our Statement of Purpose (we welcome all to live in loving, just, and respectful relationship with each other)*... **We will continue to produce statements that clarify roles in the church community**.
5. *Living into our Statement of Purpose (we welcome all to live in loving, just, and respectful relationship with each other)* **... We will strive to improve communication with the congregation.**
6. *Living into our Statement of Purpose (we welcome all to worship God)* ... **We will update the physical appearance of our building with a specific focus on the narthex and exterior signage.** We want to create an atmosphere that encourages spiritual growth from the moment a person approaches our building.

WHY BECOME AFFIRMING?

Affirm United has been a valuable resource in my education toward TSA becoming an affirming ministry. AU is an independent organization within the United Church of Canada that supports our quest. Their website, “ause.ca”, has: links to other United Churches who have gone through this process, books and video resources for us to use and a link to “Open Hearts” – Affirming Ministry Resource.

“Open Hearts” has been my main resource on this website. Particularly “We’re Already Welcoming, so Why Become Affirming?” (pg. 12, Open Hearts).

To me, becoming affirming takes it up a notch. It is more inclusive to those who are or feel marginalized. As in our own Statement of Purpose: “… we strive to recognize the light of God in each person, regardless of age, race, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, economic status or any other category by which the world may seek to divide.”

It more than our being welcoming, which suggests we are charitably “letting” them join us. It is more that we all desire to become part of a community. As we all show up together we become a cohesive blend of individuals and families. It is God’s love that brings us together, and the desire to worship collectively. Those of us who believe in this possibility of togetherness need to speak up and make it happen. The world, countries, communities, and church are made up of diverse family units that lend their distinctive qualities to the whole. We have things to learn about love and friendship from others.

Since outside negativity has probably shaped much of the attitude of LGBTQ, and other individuals regarding church, a need has risen for a safe place to worship that accepts and includes the marginalized seamlessly into a family/home. A community of inclusiveness that strives to understand the distress created by ignorance and cruelty can form a sanctuary of justice and safety. This is, to me, an Affirming Ministry.

Leslee Gervais