***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 – May 20, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Dan and Valery Stewart, in memory of Jessie (d. 1995) and Wallie (d. 1988) Stewart. They were very active members of TSA for many years.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Mon. May 21** Victoria Day – Office closed

**Wed. May 23**  ~~Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00~~ **CANCELLED**
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. May 24** Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

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

**AUDIO SYSTEM** May 20 – Merv Kusluski
 May 27 – Debbie McDermid

**COUNTING OFFERING** Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier
 June: Geoff Roberts & Noma Deshane

**MEALS ON WHEELS** May 20 – John & Laura Cooke
 May 27 – Kevin & Pat Box

**From the Office**: Many thanks to Kathleen Hinchley, for volunteering in the office on Thursday, while Debbie was away.

**Church Family Picnic**: We're having a Church Family Picnic! Join us on June 3, after worship, rain or Shine: on the Plaunt Street lawn or in Stewart Hall. Family and friends of all ages welcome. Food provided – hamburgers, hotdogs, dessert & drinks (also vegetarian & GF food). Games too! Participate or watch: lawn games, parachute games, relays... Want to help? Have a favourite "church picnic" request? Contact Nancy Illman, Ginette Raaphorst, Yvonne Powell or Felicite Stairs. Mark your calendars now!

**From the Thrift Shop**: While sorting through your spring clothes, if you find things that don’t fit, or you don’t wear anymore, please think of the Thrift Shop. We are in need of spring and summer clothing. Thank you!

**TSA Thrift Shop**

**2018 First Quarter Report to the Trinity St Andrew’s Congregation**

For the period January 1 to March 31, 2018 – the first quarter:

* $9,200 will be given to the Church
* $920 will be given to Charity – Camp Lau-Ren
* $897.65 will be given to the UCW to reimburse for sales on Saturdays that they operated.
* Number of days open: 37
* Average number of customers per day: 47
* Average sales per day: $302.17
* Average sale per customer: $6.32
* Net sales for Q1: $11,098.80

Net sales in Q1 were up $1,732.33 from Q1 last year with 2 fewer days open in 2018. Total given to the Church for the year 2018 is $9,200 which is $1,200 more than budgeted.

**From MPCF**: Say "Fantastic!" We are ready to create a collection of photos of all the folks who come to TSA. Photos will be displayed on the wall in the narthex for handy reference. One copy will be kept in the office. You may also request one personal copy. Our photographer Mickey McDonald will have his equipment set up in the Marion Roffey Room after the worship service. It will take about 5 minutes or less per person or family group. Please sign up at the photo table to reserve a time. The next opportunity to have photos taken will be June 3 during the Family Picnic and June 10 after the church service. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

**A Message from Finance and Stewardship Committee**: At the end of April we have reached the one third mark of our financial year. Our income for the general fund (*the operation of the church*) is on track with revenue of $60,233 (2018 Budget 163,000) and the mission and services fund is also on track with revenue of $8966. (Budget $26,600.). Thank you all for your generous support of TSA and its mission. The summer vacation/cottage times are usually more difficult for continuous revenue streams. Please consider PAR or other means of support for the summer when you might be away. *Peter Raaphorst,
 Chair of Finance*

2018 Affirming

Poem “You are not affirming our existence” By Joy Cowan

You are not being asked to determine the legitimacy of the gay or transgender experience; You are not being asked whether you “agree” with same-sex relationships; Or whether you’d ever consider kissing a man/woman/genderqueer/transgender/genderfluid/agender/kinky person (whichever scares you the most); You are not being asked to understand that gender and sexuality are spectrums; You are not being asked to debate whether gender dysphoria should be considered a mental health disorder; You are not being asked to be fluent in the latest lingo (boi, transmasculine, poly, queer AF, etc.); You are not being asked whether your parents or the “church forefathers” would approve of same-sex marriage; You are not being asked to decipher the “right answer” to whether The Bible approves of gay or transgender people. Because this is not about judging people. It’s not. You’re not being asked to affirm our existence. Instead, you are being asked – right now, today – whether YOU personally believe that ours is a God of love and acceptance; Whether your version of Christian hospitality means welcoming everyone. Everyone. And really meaning it. It’s about taking into your heart Jesus’ command to unconditionally love your neighbour as yourself. It really is that simple. The Affirming process helps a congregation to truly see how wide is their circle of love and inclusion. And my prayer for all of us is this: Spirit, draw the circle wider still and lead us to a place where our love is without borders. Amen.



Embracing the Spirit

Our gifts for Mission & Service support innovation in ministry.

As a jazz saxophonist, Peter Woods knows that live music performances are spiritually moving events for both the performer and the audience. As an ordained minister, he has always wanted to connect his performances more overtly to faith communities and spiritual growth.

That is now happening, thanks to funding from Embracing the Spirit, a Mission & Service–funded learning network and innovation fund. The program fosters new forms of ministry—including drum circles, outdoor labyrinths, arts festivals, and community cooking classes—along with supporting existing faith communities through connection and collaboration.

When Embracing the Spirit was launched at the Skylight Festival in 2016, Woods and his Evensong Ensemble were there to perform. They were later granted an innovation grant, allowing the group to develop professionally, combining the power found in the contemporary jazz-pop concert experience with the progressive theology of the United Church.

“Support from Embracing the Spirit is making that possible,” Woods says. “People have never stopped seeking spiritual nourishment in a musical setting. The music is a vessel and is one part of a message about love and acceptance in the world.”

He notes that Evensong also hopes to connect with other musicians as the United Church seeks to be a credible presence in the Spiritual but Not Religious world. “We want to be part of the conversation” he says, “and funding from Embracing the Spirit is making that possible.”

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.