



TRINITY NEWS

June 12, 2020

(705) 445-3901 Rev. Dr. Brian W. Goodings



Helen Wells
Oct. 1, 1942 - June 10, 2020

Our deepest sympathy to Hank Wells and family.

Helen's Obituary as published on the website of Fawcett Funeral Homes:

Wells, Helen (nee Wallace) died peacefully on Wednesday June 10, 2020 at Campbell House Hospice after a long illness with Lung Cancer. Born in Collingwood on October 1, 1942 to parents the late Ted and Vera Wallace, Helen was a kind and caring individual who touched the lives of all who knew her.

She will be forever loved by her husband of 55 years Harry "Hank"; her son Brad (Laura) and two grandchildren whom she adored, Evan and Alana. Helen was predeceased by her daughter Susan (2012) and sister Jean Noble (2019). She will be deeply missed by her sister Marion (Pearson) Spellman and many nieces and nephews.

Helen will be remembered as a loving wife, proud mother, grandmother and dedicated teacher. She loved playing the piano and bridge, journaling and cruising but most of all she loved her family. As per her wishes cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital, Trinity United Church or Hospice Georgian Triangle - Campbell House would be appreciated.

June 8, 2020

Trinity Musings #18: Rev Brian Goodings (self-isolating and stewing in my office at Trinity United Church)

If you have walked or ridden a bike in the spring on the Georgian Trail near the Craighleith Heritage Depot, you will likely know about the beautiful corridor of lilac bushes that grow along this section of trail. They are a great nuisance to some of us with allergies, but their beautiful colours and fragrant blossoms are well worth having itchy eyes. When they are in full bloom it's really a magical place full of wonderful smells and bees and birds.

I was riding my bike home through this holy-lilac-passage last week when I came upon a woman who had already cut a basketball size bouquet of the flowers and she wasn't quite finished. Later, I passed more than a few people who had done the same thing and although I didn't say anything to them, I gave them my best stink-eye. I don't think they cared a whit. Since the flowers were growing on property that didn't belong to anyone, they felt free to take them. Never mind the rest of us.

The beauty of having public space, also known as a commons, is that it can be enjoyed by all. In the past, people grazed their animals on public lands and there was a shared expectation that nobody would abuse the privilege by taking more than their fair share. Apparently not everyone bought into the plan and some people brought larger herds than others. Soon the public pastures were overgrazed and this later became known as the tragedy of the commons. This term has been used to describe over usage or abuse of anything that isn't directly controlled or regulated and includes economies, oceans and the atmosphere too.

The assumption most of us hope is true, is that we share a loosely defined set of values, also known as common sense. The world religions and all ethics have a version of what some of us know as the Golden Rule. Put succinctly, "Don't do to others what you wouldn't want done to you." I would put it more bluntly...don't be a selfish jerk. It's really not that complicated. Some recent studies say babies, even only a few weeks old, have a strong sense of right and wrong.

We shouldn't need to be told but the funny thing is that, most Canadians at least, obey regulations. If I simply posted a sign on the Georgian Trail that said "Please Don't Cut Any Flowers", most, but probably not all, would cease taking the lilacs. Case in point, there's a beautiful little creek and meadow near my house that has a "No Dumping" sign posted on a tree. Although it would be hard to imagine anyone seeing that creek and thinking it was ok to dump garbage there, a simple little sign has, for the most part, kept them from doing so. Crazy.

According to the literature, people treat any commons with more care and consideration if there are obvious and clear rules. The tragedy is that unregulated commons can be, and have been, desecrated by human greed and chosen ignorance. We have ruined or diminished much of what we should have been able to share.

We live much of our lives in shared spaces, or commons, and have been able to live fairly freely in these spaces until recently, when we were sent into isolation to keep the dreaded virus at bay. Now, as we carefully re-enter the commons, we need to agree how we will behave. Do we need to post signs or can we just generally agree to do what we think might be the best practices to keep others safe? Will we agree to do these things even if they inconvenience us? There has been a global pause in manufacturing and the air and water are cleaner than they have been for a very long time. Perhaps this is the time for the world to talk about trying to keep it that way?

There are some who clearly do not share a concern for the greater good and have made it clear they are NOT going to do anything that limits what they see as their god-given-right to do anything they please. They will not wear a mask; they will not keep a good distance from others; they will not ever get a vaccine; they will not believe any of the news because the whole Covid-thing is a hoax and conspiracy. They will not respect or share the commons in ways that respect others if it doesn't suit them- and it doesn't. Unfortunately (for me at least), a lot of these people belong to religious groups. As far as I am concerned, if we don't care for God and neighbours as much as we do for ourselves, our faith is as misguided and annoying as a "noisy gong or clanging cymbal". We can become the religious-wrong aka dangerous narcissistic twits. Look south if you want examples but there are plenty here too.

I'm not someone who likes a lot of rules but there is no longer much, if any, global capacity to allow for these kinds of self-serving behaviours. This virus has brought sudden awareness of our interconnectivity and the reality that the world itself is not ours alone but a commons we can share or destroy.

Do we really need to be told? Do we really need any more signs? Quit cutting the flowers.



Let's hope these lilacs are from a tree owned by the person who picked them.

Community Dinner - Wed. June 17



Wednesday's Free Community Dinner will be a BBQ pick up between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the parking lot. Our thanks to Barb and Ralph Sneyd for making this possible.

Also, a big thanks to the anonymous donor who paid for last month's dinner which served 100.

Donating To Trinity

With our services on line, Trinity's revenue is experiencing the expected impact but there are ways we can continue our support. **Treasurer Al Loughery reported at this weeks's board meeting via Zoom that we as a congregation are continuing our financial support during this long hiatus.**

One way we are continuing to support Trinity during this critical time is through PAR or pre-authorized remittance. It is a monthly contribution.

Our thanks to Secretary Ruth Crittenden who passes on the information below:

When determining the amount for your monthly contribution, you need to decide how much you want to give to the church per year and then divide by twelve. Don't go by the amount you would give in a four week period as that amount would give the church less than dividing the total per year by twelve...and thus less than you would normally give.

You can give to three categories if desired: General, Mission and Service, and Stewardship.

If you wish to top up your givings at any time or give to any other funds, this can be done with a special PAR envelope or an envelope of your own, but not your current boxed envelopes as your number will change.

PAR comes out of your bank account around the 20th of each month.

Mail the original void cheque and form to:

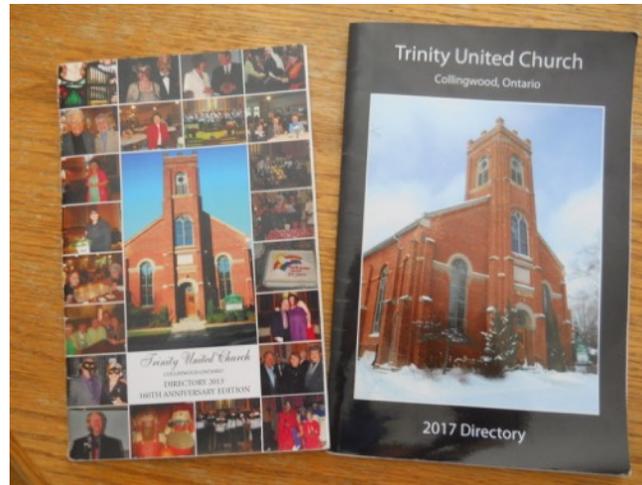
*Ruth Crittenden
32 Carmichael Cres.
Collingwood ON L9Y 4R7*

Note: The PAR form is attached in Word in this mailing for your convenience. **Our number of PAR contributors has now reached 60.**

E-transfers

E-transfers have been made easier for you. You can simply send your e-transfer to trinityadmin@bmts.com and your funds will automatically be deposited to the church bank account. No longer a need for a fact finding question. You will receive an e-mail back from your bank that your funds have been deposited. Please indicated in the message line where you would like your funds allocated. Remember you may also give your donation in the way of PAR, PayPal, or by dropping off your church envelope in our new locked mail box located on the side of the church beside the door facing north on Maple.

Digital Directory



Do the Trinity directories pictured above look familiar? They are the two most recent directories Trinity published in 2013 and 2017 respectively. These have served us well but like all printed directories, they too soon are out of date.

We now have a digital directory consisting of name, address, telephone and email for most of the congregation. It is being used for administrative purposes.

At this week's board meeting, approval was given to having this digital directory available to the congregation, password protected, on our website. This directory would be much easier to keep up to date and help us communicate with each other.

I will be sending out a separate email asking everyone to let me know if they do not wish their directory information included on the website, password protected,.

Trinity's Reopening

At this week's board meeting, chaired by Danielle York, there was considerable discussion regarding the reopening of Trinity in light of this week's announcement from Queen's Park that 30% of capacity gatherings for churches is now possible.

The board decided to target Sunday August 30 as our first Sunday service with attendance, post pandemic. It is a moving target since conditions and rules may change. The board will continue to meet during the summer to monitor the decision. Spiritual Committee will focus on the necessary modifications that will be required when we do finally gather for a Sunday service.

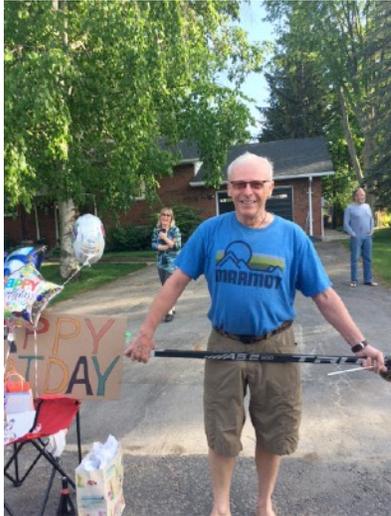
Meanwhile, we still have church on YouTube and it continues to have a significant following. Some have expressed the hope that we might continue with YouTube once we can attend services in person. That would require some major modifications since the sanctuary is now set up like a TV studio. It would not be a simple task to do both.

Rev. Brian's 65th on Tuesday
(now the government can send \$)



Duncan Street will never be the same after the grand Happy Birthday Rev Brian parade last night. The neighbours think I'm famous and one asked if the parade was for the mayor. I was completely gobsmacked and humbled by the outpouring of your kind wishes and smiles, not to mention the balloons and signs galore. I'm looking forward to getting the "cash for life" cheques from the Government and delighted to be part of your community. Nice to see my motorcycle gang was invited too. (They were there for security!)

Shalom and blessings Rev B



Approximately 50 vehicles passed 43 Duncan in Thornbury on Tuesday for a drive by celebration of Rev. Brian's 65th birthday!

Trinity United Church: Collingwood

Minister: Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings trinityminister@bmts.com

Cell Phone: 705 441-0561

Hospital Visitor: B J Hunter 705 444-7295

Ministry of Music: Paul Sloan, 705 730-3121 (cell)

Sunday School:

Handbell Director: Maryellen Burgess, 705 443-1422 (cell)

UCW President: Joy Barr, 705 445-0726

Custodian: Michael White 1 705 344-5757

Office Assistant: Lori Forsythe 705 445-3901

Church Office: trinityadmin@bmts.com

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

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Tel: 705 445-3901

Website: www.collingwoodunitedchurch.ca

Trinity News: johnbrown5@rogers.com

Next deadline for Trinity News
is July 8. Send items to
johnbrown5@rogers.com

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Church Bulletin Bloopers

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.