

Trulls Road Trumpet



Trulls Road Free Methodist Church, 2301 Trulls Road, Courtice, ON

March 11, 2016 Edition

(An update from the desk of Pastor Brian)

March 2016 Headlines

***Christmas Ideas at Easter; Advent Conspiracy Offering Update;
Welcome to New Board Members; O Canada: Please Don't Allow Assisted Suicide: Part 2.***

Christmas Ideas at Easter

Which celebration of the Christian Faith do you like the best – Easter or Christmas? Which opportunity poses more potential impact on our community? I am sure there are many reasons to love both times of the year. As we head into Easter week please be in prayer about whom you might invite to attend Easter Sunday Morning as we gather on March 27.

I have been sensing for a while now that it's time for us to consider re-launching Christmas Lane. If you were not around for this Christmas event a few years back (as I was not either) it holds great memories. Debi Gunter in the church office will still get phone calls in the fall asking if we are holding Christmas Lane. So here's my challenge. Would you help lead a 2016 Christmas Lane? I believe we need a Team who will take on the leadership of this ministry opportunity and in particular a couple of people to give leadership to the Team. We could make this a church wide initiative and would anticipate the whole congregation to somehow be involved, but we also really need a few dedicated people who would step up and lead the way.

Here's the concept that we have in mind – can you picture it? We'd block off a portion of the north west parking lot in order to start the Christmas Lane Journey. The outside portion would include some representations of the classic outdoor scenes in which the birth of Jesus occurred. Live animals, Roman soldiers, shepherds, angels, and Wise Men all transporting people back in time. The trail would lead people to
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Advent Conspiracy Offering and Syrian Refugees

Last December we once again held an Advent Conspiracy Offering at Trulls. Over \$3700 came in to use in responding to the global crisis of refugees fleeing unsafe countries. The Official Board determined that we are not in a place to sponsor a family at this time. In light of so many local initiatives, however, it seemed to make sense for us to come along side of others who are leading the way. Our neighbouring church, Hope Fellowship, is well underway in sponsoring 10 people to come to Clarington. Whitby Free Methodist is sponsoring a family and is looking for support from Trulls and The Freeway in the days ahead when it comes time to settle this family. We have offered our encouragement to Hope Church with a donation to help with their effort in the amount of \$2000.00. Their own commitment is \$70,000 at a minimum and our contribution will help with over and above expenses.

Additionally, we remembered that World Relief is actively engaged in responding to the Syrian Crisis as well. So a cheque for \$1770 has been sent to World Relief Canada with whom the FMC has a partnership surrounding compassion and relief efforts. We also made a commitment to Whitby FMC to help with the practical nature of settling their family when they arrive and we will keep you posted as to how we can participate in that effort.

Once again Trulls has been generous. Thanks for being involved and we look forward to what God is up to in the lives of these needy people.

Welcome to our new Official Board Members!

On February 21 we had our Annual Society Meeting which was attended by over 100 people. Thanks for that support and interest in the ministry at Trulls. Barb Hambley, Kevin Bazak and Linda Anderson were elected to the Board and March 23 will be their first meeting. At that first meeting we will also establish the various positions that the Board is required to fill.

Once again we want to honour those stepping off the Board from 2015: Beth Rawn, who so ably served as Board Chair over the last 7 years; Tim Hogenbirk, who concluded a two year term and was a part of the Membership Care Team during his time; Nora Lee, who was a vital part of our church's development in Human Resources over the last few years as Chair of the Personnel Team. Thanks to each of these people for their time, effort and commitment to serving. We will keep you posted as to the new positions as they are filled but more importantly we wish to ask you to pray for our church leadership.

Our Board has two main responsibilities – to protect and direct. This involves lots of key issues and concerns and our request is for all of us to remember and support our Board with faith filled prayer as we face significant challenges. Please be advised that if you have questions or concerns about how our church functions and the appropriateness of the decisions being made we welcome your input. Our standard protocol is for you to address your thoughts through the Board Chair. You may also send a note to the Board at any time.

Christmas Lane 2016

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enter the Gym and find themselves deep into the streets of Bethlehem as they encounter the marketplace and experience the excitement of vendors for products, food, crafts along with entertainers that surprise and delight. Heading into the lower level areas in the Children's Ministry space they could view the place where Joseph and Mary gave birth to our Lord (in the Nursery) before moving into the other two spaces to be exposed to key elements of the life of Christ.

Finally people would make their way up the back stairs to the Sanctuary for a short but powerful presentation on the death and resurrection of Jesus filled with video, music and an invitation to let Jesus be their own personal Saviour. Exiting through the main foyer leaving Christmas Lane with a gift from Trulls and a smile from our church family. Can you picture this? It seems like this is the year to offer Christmas Lane as a way to a) share the Good News b) gather our whole church family around a particular outward focused initiative and c) to use our expanded facilities in a powerful way.

As a Board we have been talking about this and praying for the right leaders to take up the challenge. Do be in prayer about whether this is something the Lord is asking of you!

It's still tentative but the dates for this event are December 9-11. Please join in prayer for a sense of confirmation about whether this is the time and format for us to pursue.

Assisted Suicide: Part 2 - Physician Assisted Death

So now it's being called PAD – Physician Assisted Death! Sounds better than Physician Assisted Suicide, right? A health care worker from the community of Clarington sent me the communication that was issued to all of Lakeridge Health recently trying to get doctors and nurses and the hospitals of Lakeridge ready for what I would say is the inevitable: on June 7, 2016 PAD will be legal in Canada. I am deeply disturbed by the direction Canada is heading in this regard so let me paint a picture for you as to why:

1. There are not nearly enough safeguards in place as yet.
2. I don't understand why we are rushing this subject. The Supreme Court action of just giving one year initially and then upon an extension another 4 months seems incredible to me. Forever we have lived without this being a requirement so why the rush – why don't we give much more time for careful planning and widespread consultation with all?
3. How can we so quickly decide that doctors are now to do what they have not been doing for centuries – specifically involved in the termination of people?
4. Undefined terms take time to really clarify both legally and medically. The condition set out by the Supreme Court is described as being "grievous and irremediable medical condition, which includes illness, disease or disability." What does this mean? As I understand it my kidney disease is potentially irremediable so if I wanted to die, I should have the right to qualify and therefore be given a prescription strong enough to kill me by my doctor.
5. The other major factor is suffering. The proposal states that people may demand PAD if they endure "suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition." I realize that people can and do suffer greatly with common diseases in our world and I do not wish to diminish their suffering and the accompanying pain. But our society now, with our Human Rights emphasis, will move into a dangerous zone should we allow this to be a matter of subjectivity. Yes we experience pain in life and we suffer – yet does this give people the right to ask our society to help them end their suffering by helping them die?
6. Here's my encouragement: Write your MP and indicate your deep level of concern about this issue and call for more time and greater safeguards. Secondly, talk to your Dr the next time you have an appointment and express your concern. Third, let's pray for God to intervene in Canada's history again.

Pastor Brian's Health Update

It is so good to hear of your prayer support as Lori and I move forward facing the future with my health concern regarding my kidneys. At a February 3 appointment at Toronto General Hospital I met with another specialist who was very encouraging to us. He indicated something we had not heard of before. My condition he said was not typical of Polycystic Kidney Disease. Usually there are many small cysts on both kidneys. For me I have less in number yet the size of the cysts are larger. In particular 2 of these cysts are in places that could cause long term damage to my kidneys. The Dr said they have now been doing a procedure to shrink these larger sized cysts with effectiveness. He highly recommends we do such a procedure. On April 19 I will be in consultation with the surgeon who does this work and if he agrees I am a suitable candidate we hope to have this happen before the summer season. It is day surgery and usually happens without side effects. So thanks be to God for his care and for the wonderful medical advances available to us in Canada. Thanks so much for your prayers. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, I am feeling good and thankful to be active and pain free.

Word for the Year 2016.

It has been very cool to hear stories of how God is using this idea introduced in January. I'd like to share some of those stories along the way this year so let me know if you would like to give us a look into your life and your Word of the Year.

2016 Verse for the Year – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Always be joyful. Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus."