



Trinity News

JUNE/SUMMER 2011

and



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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BRANCH HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

370 Bridge St., Loveland, OH 45140

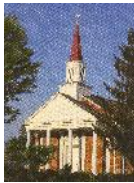
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Pastor: Ed Fisher, E-mail: fishered@fuse.net



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**COME
WORSHIP WITH
US EVERY
SUNDAY**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
Nursery during all services

JUNE AND SUMMER SCRIPTURES AND SERMON TITLES

**June 5 Communion; Recognition of Graduates;
Christian Education Recognition**

Scriptures: Psalm 119:57-66; 2 Timothy 3:10-17
Message: "Building Our Knowledge"
Kirk Peterson preaching

June 12 Pentecost Sunday

Scriptures: John 1:29-33; Acts 2:1-21
Message: "Building on Fire"
Kirk Peterson preaching

June 19 Father's Day; Summer Series begins

Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4:6-12; John 13:12-17
Message: "Building an Example"
Laura Saunders preaching

June 26

Scriptures: Acts 14:21-22; Luke 14:27-30
Message: "Building and Counting the Cost"
Kirk Peterson preaching

July 3 Communion; Independence Sunday

Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:11-16; John 8:31-36
Message: "Building Our Freedom"
Kirk Peterson preaching

July 10

Scriptures: James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:24-27
Message: "Building Upon a Solid Foundation"
Kirk Peterson preaching

July 17

Scriptures: Matthew 5:14-16; I Corinthians 3:10-15
Message: "Building with Good Materials"
Laura Saunders preaching

SUNDAY: Young Adult Studies meet at 9:00 led by Dean Engleman in the parlor.
Adult Studies meet at 9:30 a.m. led by Ed Fisher in Room 2.

TUESDAY: Women's Bible Study Group meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor.

THURSDAY: PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY Meeting each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the conference room, the Pastor's Bible Study is presently in the Book of Daniel and will continue on through the Minor Prophets. This study is a beneficial time of study, sharing and discussion. You are welcome to come and participate in the study at any time.

July 24 VBS Sunday; Child-focus

Scriptures: Matthew 18:1-4; Mark 10:13-16
Message: "Building a Child-Like Faith"
Kirk Peterson preaching

July 31

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Hebrews 3:1-6; 11:10
Message: "Building with THE Builder"
Laura Saunders preaching

August 7 Communion

Scriptures: Ephesians 2:20-22; Ephesians 4:15-16
Message: "Building Up the Body"
Laura Saunders preaching

August 14

Scriptures: 2 Peter 3:14-18; 1 Peter 2:1-5
Message: "Building Spiritual Growth"
Kirk Peterson preaching

August 21

Scriptures: Luke 24:44-48; Acts 4:5-12
Message: "Building a Witness"
Kirk Peterson preaching

August 28

Scriptures: 2 Peter 1:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9
Message: "Building With Perspective"
Kirk Peterson preaching

MONDAY: Men's Study Group will resume in September.

WEDNESDAY: Pastor Laura's PSS (Post Stone Soup) Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m. in Room 3. The study of the book of Ephesians will continue through June. The PSS study will then adjourn for the summer.



FROM THE PASTOR

Virtually everyone has heard the saying, “Rome was not built in a day.” The saying conveys the meaning that it takes time to do an important job. The city of Rome, like all great works, was built over many years of hard work. The “glory of Rome” used to be the standard for everything else and developed over time, not overnight. The thought is: To do well in accomplishing an important task takes time and diligent effort.

The road construction taking place in front of Trinity will not happen in a day. It may be as much as a two year project. During that time we will need to be diligent, constructive, and patient with the challenges the construction process presents. We look forward to the finished product and the incredible improvement, realizing it will take time.

The building of our Christian faith does not happen in a day. Our faith is under construction. We are in the process of building our personal faith in Christ and building together as the body of faith—the church. No one becomes a truly mature Christian in just a short time, and the church is to grow up in every way into Christ, which also does not happen in just short time. It has been nearly 2000 years since the church was “born” at Pentecost and we are not finished building together yet!

Building on the themes of the road work taking place and the road we are to take in living as Christians, our summer worship series will be “Faith Under Construction.” Scripture shows us the right road and provides us with the blueprint for the building of our faith. “Faith Under Construction” will steer us through a number of Christian living topics from Scripture, helping us to continue on the road of building our faith.

Summertime and road construction can be deterrents to active participation in the church. You are encouraged to yield not unto the temptation of inactivity. Be constructive in the building of your faith and in building the church up in love, despite any challenges. Be willing to take the time and to go the extra mile, all the while remembering the extent to which Jesus has gone for us.

Constructively,
Kirk

LOVE FIRST MIRACLE OFFERING The theme for this year’s Annual Conference in June is **Unleashing New Life**, lifting up and celebrating the church’s missional focus on Creating New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations. In keeping with the theme and missional focus, Annual Conference will be receiving a **Love First Miracle Offering**. Half of the offering will be used to build a new church for each of our four mission partners around the globe. The other half will go to help create three new places for new people in the West Ohio Conference. A brief description of these seven projects is available online at www.wocumcsecure.org/ac/2011/miracleoffering. Trinity’s goal of at least \$500 for this offering has not yet been met. Donations can be made until the first week of June so that a check can be taken to Annual Conference. If you would like to donate, please mark your donation “Miracle Offering.”

TRINITY IN MINISTRY



EATING MERCIFULLY On Wednesday, June 8, Rich Sheer will be showing a short film called "Eating Mercifully" which shows a Christian perspective on modern day agriculture and food choices. The film is 25 minutes long and there will be a 30-minute group discussion afterwards. Rita Fisher watched the film recently and said it was well-done, interesting and thought-provoking. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Room 3. Trinity members of all ages are invited and encouraged to attend.

No Higher calling Honoring Trinity's Children Workers

Trinity is blessed with wonderful children's programs, and it is a joy to watch our kids grow in body, mind, and spirit.

On Sunday June 5, we will be expressing our gratitude for all who give of their time and talents to work with our children. There is no higher calling than to let a child know that they are loved by the Lord. Those who minister with children set a foundation for the rest of their lives. At the 9:30 a.m. service, we will recognize our workers and then a brunch will be served immediately following.



This will make your summer just fly by! School is not out yet, but MMM is reminding you that we will again be collecting school supplies. Book bags will be a special need. Each elementary school usually requests between 10 - 15 bags per school. The school supplies should be available on the Milford school web site about the third week of June. It will also be available at the office. All supplies should be returned to Trinity by Sunday, August 7. Thank you for helping with this. The schools are always so grateful for the supplies we give them.

Activity for April: Utilities--13 clients--\$1828.23; Rent--7 clients--\$1075.00; Water--1 client--\$ 110.05. Thank you for your prayers and support. Have a great summer. *Nancy and Dorothy*

Jane Loomis would appreciate getting information about children, usually in foreign countries, who are being supported by members of the congregation, to use for a missions bulletin board.



Trinity provides the evening meal for the residents of Tender Mercies (www.tendermerciesinc.org) on the first Sunday of each month. Our summer meals will be on June 5, July 3, August 7 and September 4. In June, the Boy Scouts will be preparing and serving the meal. Ingredients are needed and will probably be needed again in July, August and September. Please see the sign up sheet in the hallway for a list of what is needed. (Ingredient sign up sheets are generally posted the second Sunday of the month for the following month's meal.)

If you have some extra (travel/hotel size) toiletries, stamps or socks that you would like to donate, these items are always needed and appreciated by the residents. Items can be left in the Tender Mercies cabinet in the kitchen area (next to the chest freezer). There are still some months open if your group would like to cook and serve as a group mission project! As always, many thanks to all those who provide ingredients and help cook and/or serve.

We couldn't do this ministry without your help. The residents of Tender Mercies are always so thankful for what we provide. If you would like to help out or learn more about what we do, feel free to sign up or contact Mary Sheer at sheermm@hotmail.com.

TRINITY IN MINISTRY

SHAREFEST 2011

Please remember ShareFest in your prayers. There is a list of prayer requests on the display table in the breezeway to help you.

Please let Jane Loomis know ASAP if you and/or your family would like to carry Trinity's banner in the Frontier Day parade on June 2. Other marchers and safety patrol persons are needed also. ShareFest T-shirts are required and will be available for \$5/individual, \$20/family of 4 or more, to cover the cost. We will meet in the Kroger parking lot at 5:15 p.m. Trinity's Sunday School department stuffed Sharefest bags to be handed out during the parade. This was the first official ShareFest project, and we thank the kids for their wonderful effort. There is still time to sign up to volunteer during ShareFest, June 23-25, for a few hours, a day or all 3 days. Sign up at the table in the breezeway. This is an opportunity to show the unity we have in Christ as we demonstrate the love of Christ to the community. Remember the sermon series "Who Is My Neighbor"? **ShareFest is all about serving our neighbors.**

If you like to eat out, there will be a Dine to Donate opportunity on June 7, all day, at City BBQ in Eastgate. 20% of the proceeds will go to ShareFest. Are you thinking of giving gift cards for graduation or weddings? Check out the following site online to buy discounted gift cards: <http://www.glickin.com/pg/deal/milfordsharefest>. You get something for less cost, and ShareFest receives a healthy percentage—a win/win situation!

STEPHEN MINISTRY DON'T FORGET! Stephen Ministers are available all year round.



We do not take summers off from ministering to those who need a friend to walk with them during times of trials and tribulations.

Often, when we are going through a trying time, we just “handle it” and get through one way or another. What choice do we have but to get through? Well, we do have choices. In difficult times, we usually have a lot of decisions to make at a time when we might not be so clear-headed and have all kinds of things being thrown at us all at once. Don't you want your decisions to be the best you can make from as many options as you can conceive? Doesn't it help to have someone listen so that you can sort through your choices, pathways, or just daily functioning? Stephen Ministers can help by being that listener who allows you to hear yourself so you can be empowered to make the best choices to meet your needs. Stephen Ministers understand your feelings and can gently help lift your spirits. They are there to also provide spiritual assistance if you so choose.

Contact the Pastors, a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister if you would like a Stephen Minister or if you know someone who could use a Stephen Minister. They do not need to be a member of the church.



CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTION We've had a “taste” already of challenges associated with road work on Wolfpen-Pleasant Hill Road. The first phase of construction which will include a road closure between Route 131 and Eagle's Way will begin in June or July. Despite any rumors to the contrary, throughout the process there will always be access to the church. A map is being made available listing the alternative routes for getting to Trinity during the construction phases.

Please be planning for your continued participation at Trinity despite the inconveniences of the road work, as well as encouraging and accommodating the participation of others. Ride-sharing is one constructive option. Beyond groans and frustrations, we can be creative, constructive, and building upon our experience together. Maps to help avoid the construction are available in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

KIDS R.O.C. — WHERE KIDS RELY ON CHRIST

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Education Director: Dora Slyder
Summer 2011



“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.’” John 14:6

This year Summer Sunday School will be full of fun and interactive learning. We will learn what it means to be a kid under construction and discussing questions like “What does Jesus want me to do?” We would love to see each of our parents participate one week this summer. Bring a snack, play a game, sing a song, come see what your child's Sunday is like.

June 19 and August 21 will be the **Third Sunday Bring Your Child to Church**. This is a time for your child to see what your Sunday is like as they learn about ‘Big’ church.

July 24 will be our Vacation Bible School Celebration, the service will be run by our Sunday School kids.

Please continue to use the 'Name Badger' computer each week for a Sunday School Name tag. The information collected by students and teachers is very helpful to us.

Children’s Choir: **The F.I.S.H.I.E.S. (preschool-3rd grade) and J.A.M Choir (4-6th grade)** will present their end of the year song, “Kids Under Construction”, Sunday June 19 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

F.I.S.H.I.E.S. Director Needed: We are continuing to look for someone to lead this important part of our children’s Christian education for the 2011-2012 school year. Please pray that this position is not open for very long.



Sunday Evenings:

JAM Jesus And Me (4-6th grade) is taking a break for the summer. See you in the fall!



VBS July 18-22, 2011! 9:00 a .m. - 12:00 noon
Kids entering K-5th in the fall!

Hear the sound of the waves hitting the shore? VBS is getting close! **SAVE THE DATE** for the beach vacation of a lifetime! Take your kids to **SonSurf Beach Bash VBS**—where they'll get **BIG ANSWERS** to their **BIG QUESTIONS!** Kids will meet up, look up, join up, open up and fire up for Jesus, who said: *“I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).*

Registration will be available on-line in June! \$5 per child with pre-registration.

Applications and training are required for all volunteers.

Check the bulletin for more information.

M-Squad



The M-Squad is the "Seniors" fellowship at Trinity. All seniors are invited to attend our monthly functions. Branch Hill seniors are invited to join us for all M-Squad functions.

On **Tuesday, June 21** we will be viewing the Cincinnati Art Museum Circus Posters Display. Luncheon will follow. Please meet at the church to carpool at 10:30 a.m.

On **Tuesday, July 19** we will visit the Historic Cincinnati Observatory Center. Meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. in the office and office conference room (as this is during the time of VBS). We will then carpool to Laszlo's Iron Skillet in Newtown for lunch. After lunch, we will continue on to Hyde Park for a tour of the Cincinnati Observatory Center (C.O.C.) Our good friend and historian, John Ventre will take us on a tour of the two observatories there. There are a few steps at each observatory. However, chairs will be available at each of the stops during his tour and talk. The tour will last approximately two hours, and we feel you will come away with an appreciation of this hidden gem of Cincinnati. Cost of the tour is \$4.00/person which we will collect that day. For any questions, feel free to contact Sue or Steve Rismiller (248-1577).

Watch the bulletin for **August** M-Squad activities.

On **Wednesday, October 19**, the matinee show at La Comedia is "Church Basement Ladies Sequel." You are invited to go with us. Group rates are \$38.00 per person. Please call Don or Audrey Koester for reservations. Audrey (5512 St. Rt. 132, Batavia, OH 45103) is accepting checks made out to her, beginning August 11. Payment is due by September 11.

On **Wednesday, December 14**, the matinee show is "A Christmas Carol." The last scene transforms a humbug into a hero and La Comedia presents its traditional Christmas Carol, "O' Holy Night." Details will be supplied later.

M-SQUAD TRIP SEPTEMBER 26, 27, 28, 29, 2011

Monday, Sept. 26: Depart Trinity 9:00 a.m. OYO (On your own) Lunch at the Boone Inn at Berea Ky. Tour Sgt. Alvin Yorks home at Pall Mall Tn. Check in at the Grand Vista Hotel at Helelwood Tn. OYO Dinner at the Fire Side Restaurant .

Tuesday, Sept. 27: Continental breakfast at the Grand Vista. Depart at 9:00 a.m. for Historic Rugby Tennessee. Tour Rugby lunch at the Harrow Road Café finish the tour of Historic Rugby.

OYO Dinner at Preston's Steak House.

Wednesday, Sept. 28: Continental breakfast at the Grand Vista. Depart at 9:00 a.m. for a tour of American Museum of Science & Energy at Oak Ridge Tennessee. Then off to Museum of Appalachia lunch at the museum restaurant. OYO Dinner at Country Style Restaurant.

Thursday, Sept 29: Continental breakfast at the Grand Vista. Check out and Depart 9:00 a.m. for historic Stears, Ky. Tour Historic Stears Ky. Board the Big South Fork Scenic Railway Train trip To the coal mine (about a 3 Hour round trip.) Bandana Lunch included. Depart for Berea Ky. and OYO Dinner at the Boone Tavern. Back to Trinity about 9:00 p.m.

About 800 miles and 16 hours on the bus.

Cost Single occupancy \$392.00 Double occupancy \$295.00 each.

Call Herb Ruffley E-Mail her723@cinci.rr.com if you are interested in going on the trip. Space may still be available.

Your old hearing aids can be restored to be used by deaf children. Give them to Pete Pierce-Jones.



United Methodist Women's News

Circle Anna wants to thank John Calhoun and Tim Brown for setting up the tables for the Plant Auction. Thanks to all who donated plants and to our friends who did the bidding and buying. A big thanks to Lynn Engleman, Jack and Jared for taking the tables down for us. We made \$218.30 from the auction.



***"Same Kind of Different as Me"* - Women's Book Discussion Group - July 18**

Need a good book to read? Like discussing what you have read with others? Then join us for a book discussion regarding the true story, *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. It is the emotional tale of their story: a telling of pain and laughter, doubt and tears, dug out between the bondages of this earth and the free possibility of heaven. No reader or listener will ever forget it. The book can be purchased at bookstores and online. Christianbook.com has it in paperback for 50% off. (*Because it is about the relationship of two men, it's a great book for men too.*)

We will meet on Monday, July 18, at 1:00 p.m. (lunch), and discussion to start at 1:30 p.m. Panera's Community Room has been reserved for this event. All women welcome. *Karen Bell*

UMW: Nominations are being accepted for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Missions Officer. Please contact your circle leader or one of the board members with your nomination.

Thursday, August 4 is the next **UMW General Meeting**. Pam Harris will be joining us to talk about her role as current Ohio River Valley District President for UMW. After the meeting, we will be creating Christmas card crafts. Don't forget to bring your cards to recycle in this thoughtful way. We will need 30+ cards per craft. Watch the bulletin for time and room number.

The Anna, Esther, Lydia and Susanna Circles will not meet during the summer. **Lydia circle** is planning to get together for lunch. Watch the bulletin for details. All women are welcome.

"Real Life Groups"... Where Nobody Stands Alone

God's intent has always been for his children to walk together through this journey of faith. Christian friends hold us up when times are tough, they help us stay focused on God and grow in our faith. Close Christian fellowship helps us learn how to love one another.

This fall, Trinity UMC will initiate a Small Group Ministry that we are calling, "Real Life Groups" that seeks to provide a place for every person to belong. These groups of six to twelve people, each led by a facilitator, will fellowship together on a regular basis for support, to nurture one another and help one another deepen their devotion to Christ.

You will be given a choice of groups, and your group might form around a shared commonality. Perhaps you're all raising children, or maybe you all enjoy a hobby like golf. It might be that you have all experienced losing a spouse, or possibly you will want to take up a healthier lifestyle together. Maybe you all live near one another. In addition to your shared interests or circumstances, you will be equipped to walk more closely with God and with one another. We hope that you will gain a group of close friends.

We invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a small group participant this fall. We will kick off "Real Life Groups" the first part of October. Each year will be divided into three semesters, and you will be invited to sign up for a semester at a time. Even those with busy schedules find time to do activities that they consider important. The time we invest in deepening our discipleship yields eternal rewards. We invite you to share your thoughts with us about this ministry, and we will in turn be sharing information with you. Look for future bulletin board displays and bulletin updates.

Please pray for the success of this new ministry.

Pastor Laura and Lay Director of Small Groups Betsy Williams

T. U. M. Y. NEWS

The TUMY (Trinity United Methodist Youth) group is open to youth from 7th through 12th grades. This is a God centered, Mission minded group that typically meets on Sunday evenings. If you have any questions concerning the Youth Group, see Scott King.

Sunday, June 05 - MANDATORY Mission Trip Meeting for all youth and parents going on the summer mission trip. The meeting will be held from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the room 4. We will be giving out the details of the trip as well as signing the many release forms needed for this trip. If for some reason you are unable to attend this meeting you MUST make arrangements to meet with Scott King separately. Immediately following the Mission Trip Meeting, TUMY will be having it's annual TUMY Survivor Game night. Come join us for some fun and fellowship at our last scheduled TUMY for the summer. This is a good opportunity to invite a friend to join us and introduce them to your youth group.

Saturday, June 11 - Upward Soccer Award Ceremony. TUMY will be assisting with this event so come and join Trinity with the celebration of our first season. Details TBA.

Sunday, June 26 - Depart for our Summer Mission Trip to Copperhill, Tennessee. Please be at Trinity at 8:30 a.m. to load your luggage into our vans. We will be attending the 9:30 a.m. service and depart immediately afterwards. Please wear your 2011 TUMY Tee.

Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 - Appalachian Mission at the Eagle Ranch in Copperhill, Tennessee.

Wednesday, June 29 - Low ropes team building and whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River!

Thursday, June 30 - Appalachian Mission at the Eagle Ranch.

Friday, July 1 - Depart Eagle Ranch return back to Trinity

I want to thank my Trinity family for all of your support of the youth group and our activities. We had great year in fellowship, discipleship, and serving our Lord. We are looking at possibly doing a summer activity each month in July and August before starting back up again in September. Details of these events will be announced at a later time.

Thanks be to God!

Scott King

Existing Small Groups Summer Celebration: June 26

If you have been a participant in a small group during this last school year here at Trinity, you are invited to a Summer Celebration on **Sunday, June 26 at 12:00 noon** in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be provided, and we will share information about each of our current small groups. We will use this opportunity to glean the learnings and celebrate the successes of our groups to date, and to look forward to the launch of a comprehensive small group program this fall.

*Please **RSVP** to Betsy Williams no later than June 19.*



THREADS OF LOVE GROUP The Trinity Threads of Love Group will meet on **Wednesday, June 22, July 27, and August 24** from 10:00 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m. Feel free to come for the whole day or part of the day as your schedule allows. If you have questions please call Dee Brown (248-1808).

USHERING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The 9:30 a.m. service is looking for ushers! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Brian Horning. A friendly personality is the only requirement. We are scheduling for Summer now.

If you would like to help usher during any of our services, contact the church office (831-0262), sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Brian Horning for the 9:30 a.m. service, or contact *Herb Ruffley* for the 11:00 a.m. service.



TRINITY EVENTS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Remember the weekday, to keep it Holy!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>5 COMMUNION RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 8:15, 11:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 2:00 Tender Mercies Preparation 4:00 TUMY Mission Trip Meeting</p> | <p>6 6:15 Women's Softball 7:30 Men's Softball Annual Conference</p> | <p>7 9:15 Women's Study 7:30 Contemp. Practice <i>ShareFest Dine to Donate @city BBQ</i> Annual Conference</p> |
| <p>12 PENTECOST 8:15, 11:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Safe Sanctuary Training for VBS 6:00 Stephen Ministry</p> | <p>13 6:15 Women's Softball 7:30 Men's Softball</p> | <p>14 9:15 Women's Study 7:30 Contemp. Practice 1:00 BH Book Club</p> |
| <p>19 FATHERS' DAY <i>Summer Worship Series Begins</i> 8:15, 11:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Contemporary Worship <i>Third Sunday Bring Your Child To Church</i> 9:30 Sunday School</p> | <p>20 6:15 Women's Softball 7:30 Men's Softball</p> | <p>21 9:15 Women's Study 10:30 M-Squad 7:00 BH Bible Study 7:30 Contemp. Practice</p> |
| <p>26 8:15, 11:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 12:00 Small Group Luncheon 8:30 TUMY MISSION TRIP</p> | <p>27 6:15 Women's Softball 7:30 Men's Softball TUMY MISSION TRIP</p> | <p>28 9:15 Women's Study 7:30 Contemp. Practice TUMY MISSION TRIP</p> |

JUNE 2011




WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Stone Soup Supper 7:00 PSS Adult Study 7:00 Trustees | 2 10:00 Pastor Study 6:30 Pastor's Study Frontier Days Parade | 3 7:00 Scrapbooking 4:00 Wedding Rehearsal | 4 2:00 Wedding |
| 8 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Stone Soup Supper 7:00 Eating Mercifully film Annual Conference | 9 10:00 Pastor Study 6:30 Pastor's Study Annual Conference | 10 | 11 Upward Soccer Ceremony  |
| 15 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Stone Soup Supper 6:30 SPRC 7:00 PSS Adult Study | 16 10:00 Pastor Study 6:30 Pastor's Study | 17 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal | 18 6:00 Wedding |
| 22 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Stone Soup Supper 7:00 PSS Adult Study 10:00 Threads of Love | 23 10:00 Pastor's Study 6:30 Pastor's Study SHAREFEST | 24 SHAREFEST | 25 SHAREFEST |
| 29 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Stone Soup Supper TUMY MISSION TRIP | 30 10:00 Pastor's Study 6:30 Pastor's Study TUMY MISSION TRIP | JULY 1 TUMY MISSION TRIP RETURN | |

For a more detailed calendar including other groups using facilities please visit our website at Trinitymilford.org.



BRANCH HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.branchhillumc.org.

NEWS/NOTES

- ▶ - The Women’s Book Club had a great May meeting as we discussed the book, “Fly Away Home”.
- ▶ - Our May Pot Luck was held with Bob Wilson bringing a program on Israel.
- ▶ - Welcome back to Gordon Roat from his winter in sunny Florida.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ - The Fishers will be attending the Annual Conference in early June.
- ▶ - We continue our Bible Study in the Gospel of John through the Summer – 3rd Tuesday of June (6/21) and then 1st Tuesdays of July (7/5) and August (8/2) – 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ - The Women’s Book Club will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesdays (at the church – 1:00 p.m.) throughout the 3 summer months.
- ▶ - The women are planning a baby shower for young Alice Springer – hopefully in July at the Church. Watch for details.
- ▶ - We are looking for suggestions for our August all-church outing.
- ▶ - A date will be announced for our annual Picnic in September or October.



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Judie Stumpf | Pat Adleta |
| Don McSwain | Leslie May |
| Bill Green | Hazel Marvelle |
| Larry Green | Ed Gregory |
| Ed Armacost | David Cobb |
| Hal Ostendorf | Victor Mallott |
| Ellen Kurtz | David Stebbleton |
| Doug Caudill | Pat Smith |
| Bob Peacock | Frank Gilbert |
| The Russo Family | Tom Hanrahan |
| Miracle Owens | Sondy Steele |
| Grace Boggs | Carol McVauch |
| J.T. Green | Kayleigh Hickman |
| Jack Marsh | Greg McSwain |
| Carl Gant | Alisha Werner |
| Steven Miro | Danny Morse |
| Alice Taylor-Clift | Kevin Rafdel |
| Colin Zinn | Greg Crabtree |
| C.B. Green | Giselle Sonders |
| Denver Kidner | Carolyn Morgan |
| | Betty Hurd |
| | Bud Stamper |


- Joan Ostendorf
- Gayle Adkins
- Barb Marsh
- Marilyn Weir
- Tim Buckner
- Carolyn Rogers
- Janet Steele
- Jean Evans (Glenda’s Sister)
- Kelly Sears (and Linda)
- Bob Conley (Elva’s brother)
- Linda Schulte (and Tina)



| June: | July: | August: |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 6/04 Alice | 7/11 Anne Steele | 8/10 Miracle Owens |
| Taylor-Clift | 7/13 Adam Crock | 8/13 Sylvia Walton |
| 6/12 Vikki Owens | 7/18 Bev Owens | 8/20 Betty Hurd |
| 6/14 Karan Barre | 7/25 Charlene | 8/21 Linda Schulte |
| 6/19 Tina Schulte | Green | 8/26 Joan Ostendorf |
| 6/20 Judie Stumpf | 7/25 Barb Marsh | 8/27 Scott Hurd |
| | 7/26 Taylor | 8/30 Hob Arthur |
| | Musselman | |

SUMMER SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

| Date | Women Opponent | Field | Men Opponent | Field |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 05/23/11 | Pleasant Plain Pres. | Trinity 6:15 | Faith Church | Trinity 7:30 |
| 05/30/11 | no games (Memorial Day) | | no game | |
| 06/06/11 | Eastside | Trinity 6:15 | Eastside | Trinity 7:30 |
| 06/13/11 | New Hope/PHBC | Trinity 6:15 | Pleasant Hill Baptist | Trinity 7:30 |
| 06/20/11 | Mt. Carmel #1 – Red | Trinity 6:15 | Mt. Carmel #1 – Red | Trinity 7:30 |
| 06/27/11 | Gr. Cincy Worship Ctr | Trinity 6:15 | Milford Christian #2 | Trinity 7:30 |
| 07/04/11 | no games (Independence Day) | | no game | |
| 07/11/11 | Loveland Christian | Trinity 6:15 | Loveland Christian | Trinity 7:30 |
| 07/18/11 | Riverhills | Trinity 6:15 | Riverhills | Trinity 7:30 |
| 07/25/11 | Goshen Church of God | Trinity 6:15 | Goshen Church of God | Trinity 7:30 |
| 08/01/11 | Milford Christian | Miami Meadows #4 | Glen Este Baptist Goshen (at light) | 7:15 |
| August | Tournament | to be announced | Tournament | to be announced |



CHURCH CAMPS CHANGE LIVES!
 Have you considered the invitation for life-changing opportunities at our West Ohio camps this summer? Brochures are available or you can go online at www.westohiocamps.com. There are camp scholarships available through the Conference and through the local church so that no one will be prevented from going to camp because of money. Feel free to contact Pastor Kirk for more information about our conference camps. Summer camps are for elementary age children through high school.

Welcome Center Volunteers Needed to man the visitors booth in the breezeway before and after services. Only a welcoming personality is required. Call Anna Fabisiak at 575-4998 if you can help.

TRINITY SCRAPBOOKING AND CRAFTS Trinity has a no-frills Scrapbooking night the first Friday of every month. Join us Friday, June 3 and July 1 at 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. All Scrapbookers are welcome; we have a variety of experience levels that participate. Bring your supplies and join us in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost and no reservations. Contact Jennifer Horning for more information and to be added to the e-mail list (email: trinityjhl@yahoo.com).

FINANCIAL UPDATE
 1/01/2011 through 4/30/2011

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Total Offering | \$144,423 | \$144,064 | \$359 |
| Total Income | \$169,618 | \$155,464 | \$14,154 |
| Total Expense | <u>\$148,044</u> | <u>\$153,105</u> | <u>\$5,061</u> |
| Net | \$21,574 | \$2,360 | \$19,215 |

Total Offering of \$144,423 is \$359. less than planned budget. This includes plate, pledges and Sunday School offering. Pledges are \$7,068 less than planned budget. Total expenses are \$21,574 less than the total income. Total expenses are also \$5,061 less than the planned budget of \$153,105. Apportionments are paid up through April 2011.

VISION TEAM The Vision Team met on May 2 for another productive time of seeking God’s preferred future for Trinity—discerning God’s vision for us. We continue to look forward into our faith full future. You are invited to continue submitting your thoughts, ideas and visions for Trinity to the team. You are also encouraged to seek implementation of things that can be done now that will help move us toward God’s future for Trinity. In the conversations, frequently the topic of hospitality has been raised. Is Trinity as warm, friendly, inviting and accepting as we can be? There is always room for improvement and everyone is urged to engage in radical hospitality. The next Vision Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, at 7:00 pm, in the parlor.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: The West Ohio Annual Conference meets at Lakeside, Ohio beginning Sunday evening, June 5. This year has the added importance of electing delegates to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. More than just doing the business of the Conference, the gathering includes worship and celebration, fellowship and inspiration, information and learning. In addition to the pastors, Trinity’s lay delegates going to Annual Conference are Mark Bryan and Don Lynn. If you have questions or input about Annual Conference, please feel free to speak with any of those who are going as your representatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS COMING TO THE 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The following recommendations will come before the body of the Annual Conference with the request for approval:

- #1 Council on Finance and Administration and Budget
- #2 Commission on Equitable Compensation
- #3 Episcopal Residence Committee
- #4 Board of Pension and Health Benefits
- #5 Aligning UMC Investments with Resolutions on Israel/Palestine
- #6 Encouragement to Respond to Convictions Related to Modern Times – Open Minds
- #7 Guiding Principles for the State of Ohio Biennium Budget
- #8 A Wholly Inclusive Ethics Policy for West Ohio Conference Staff
- #9 Amendments for General Conference

The complete text of these recommendations can be made available to those interested. You can also find information at the Conference website: www.westohioumc.org. Look under Annual Conference 2011 and click on “Book of Reports”.

STONE SOUP SUPPERS
6:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings. Bring a dish to share. Great Food, Everyone is welcome.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, June 01 Salad Night | Wednesday, August 03 Barbequed Chicken |
| Wednesday, June 08 Grilled London Broil | Wednesday, August 10 International Night |
| Wednesday, June 15 Trinity Cookbook | Wednesday, August 17 Grilled London Broil |
| Wednesday, June 22 Fish Fry | Wednesday, August 24 Salad Night |
| Wednesday, June 29 Vegetarian Night | Wednesday, August 31 Sliced Ham |
| No meat | |
| Wednesday, July 06 Chicken and Rice | |
| Wednesday, July 13 Salad Night | |
| Wednesday, July 20 Hamburger and Hotdog | |
| Wednesday, July 27 Pie Night | |



TRINITY PEOPLE

Confirmation Class



2011 CONFIRMATION CLASS RECEIVED

The following students were confirmed and received into the membership of Trinity on May 22: **Andrew Backs, Rhiannon Bebout, Jack Engelman, Maggie Engelman, Alex Herbst, Elizabeth Kinslow, Luke Peterson, Jacob Pray, Jacob Sandlin, Hannah Sick, Makensie Snyder and Daniel Stephan.** Congratulations! Continue to pray for and support them on their faith journey. Thank you to the Confirmation mentors: *Mark and Sandy Elsass, Betty Huey, Don Kelley, Don Lynn, and Joan Sence.* Confirmation leaders were *Scott King and Pastor Kirk.*



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

With congratulations from everyone at Trinity, our graduates will be recognized in the worship services on Sunday, June 5. Among others, graduates include: *Thomas Christopher, Stephanie Foster, Tim Foster, Kara King, Kari King, Clark McCloud, Jimmy, Sally, and Vincent Meyer, Leah Snyder, Alex Strater, Jeff Williams, and Emily Wolf.*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEYERS

Congratulations to the graduating Meyers! Jimmy graduated from Xavier in computer science, Vincent from NKU in electronic engineering and mother Sally Meyer from NKU in Health Science. And congratulations to Fred for putting up with three college students in the family for the past years.

JUNE

06/01/91 Carrier, Frank and Nancy
 06/03/51 Essex, Robert and Pat
 06/06/59 Fahrbach, Don and Carol
 06/08/78 Wasserman, Jim and Debbie
 06/08/68 Pattison, George and Marsha
 06/09/62 Parker, Jim and Nancy
 06/11/77 Bell, Rick and Karen
 06/12/65 Burkhardt, Ron and Dawn
 06/12/48 Ecton, Paul and Mary
 06/14/58 Wagner, Gene and Betty
 06/14/69 Sebastian, Ray and Linda
 06/14/80 McDarty, Kevin and Sherry
 06/15/74 Billhimer, Ward and Rosetta
 06/15/68 Dunham,
 Donald and Rebecca
 06/19/99 Simpson, Steve and Alison
 06/25/83 Stephan, Bobby and Beth
 06/25/50 Tissot, Fred and Jo-Ann
 06/25/88 King, Kevin and Annie
 06/27/92 McCarthy, Jim and Sandy
 06/27/75 Saunders, Lee and Laura
 06/28 Clemons, Gary and Donna
 06/28/75 Lehker, Wayne and Anita

JULY

07/10/99 Hatfield, Craig and Molly
 07/11/42 Keys, Earl and Pat
 07/12/69 Jones, Steve and Susan
 07/20/74 Papai, Tom and Robin

AUGUST

08/01/64 Brown, Tim & Dee
 08/01/68 Pottorf, Ron and Sue
 08/04/78 Railing, Tom and Sandy
 08/05/67 Lynn, Don and Sandy
 08/09/80 Williams, Jim and Betsy
 08/10/91 Kinslow, Doug and Carrie
 08/13/83 Eyler, Dick and Barbara
 08/14 Chaney, Tedd and Beverly
 08/15/64 Burleigh, John and Marye Jo
 08/15/92 Miller, Jeff and Ann
 08/18/73 Fabisiak, Terry and Anna
 08/20/54 Boersig, Charles & Barbara
 08/21/76 Ladd, Rick and Lissa
 08/21/85 Belew, Jim and Carol
 8/21/2010 Shawhan, Dan and Rebecca
 08/23/75 Koester, Greg and Nova
 08/26/95 Pierce, Troy and Patty
 08/28 Chaney, Kasey and Michelle
 08/29/70 Fisher, Ed and Rita
 08/30/53 Ruffley, Herb and Dorothy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>JUNE</u> | | |
| 6/02 Brian Jones | 6/28 Mary Ann Joslin | 7/22 Kaitlyn Cox |
| 6/03 Austin Bryan | 6/28 Mackensie Slyder | 7/23 William Endress |
| 6/03 Wanda Covert | 6/29 Austin Ervin | 7/23 Elaine Herbst |
| 6/03 Dick Scheper | Nutter | 7/23 Janis Hester |
| 6/04 Laurie Hoeweler | <u>JULY</u> | 7/23 Kathy Kellum |
| 6/04 Amy Jewell | 7/01 Charles Boersig | 7/23 Herbert Ruffley |
| 6/05 Judy Billups | 7/02 Sandra Elsass | 7/24 Michael Hadley |
| 6/05 Connie Hadley | 7/02 Carrie Kinslow | 7/24 Jay Madigan |
| 6/05 Wayne Lehker | 7/03 Harriett | 7/24 Jeffrey Williams |
| 6/07 Penny Myers | Duckwall | 7/25 Rosetta Brewer |
| 6/07 Tom Railing | 7/04 James Belew | 7/25 Thomas Endress |
| 6/08 Robert Bebout | 7/05 Edwin Lenz | 7/25 Jacquelyn Jewell |
| 6/08 JoAnn Marohn | 7/06 Kathleen Bauer | 7/26 Amanda Ladd |
| 6/10 Kathy Meek | 7/06 Rhiannon Bebout | 7/26 Ronald Pottorf |
| 6/11 Jo Backs | 7/06 Bonnie Cox | 7/27 Andrea Allegra |
| 6/11 Keith Miller | 7/06 Kelley Schmidt | 7/29 Chloe Brown |
| 6/11 Ethan Owens | Neighbarger | 7/29 Savanna Rohne |
| 6/12 Andrew Backs | 7/06 Laura Throckmorton | 7/30 Karen Hunter |
| 6/12 Robert Essex | 7/08 Jan Pavlack | 7/31 Duane Lillibridge |
| 6/12 Kent Slyder | 7/08 Patricia Schneider | 7/31 Vernon Sluder |
| 6/13 Marisa Burse | 7/10 Sandy Railing | <u>AUGUST</u> |
| 6/13 Krista King | 7/12 Mike Bollinger | 8/01 Todd Billhimer |
| 6/14 Bob Grashel | 7/13 Craig Hatfield | 8/01 David Sence |
| 6/14 Jessica Hodges | 7/13 Jean Pierce-Jones | 8/01 Amy Smith |
| 6/14 Diane Lenz | 7/14 Sally Meyer | 8/01 Brooke King |
| 6/15 James Meyer | 7/15 Hazel Cornelius | 8/01 Savanna Termuhlen |
| 6/16 Dawn Burkhardt | 7/15 Jessica Faulkner | 8/01 Johnathan VanValkenburgh |
| 6/16 Susan Ellison | 7/15 Bobbie Floyd | 8/03 Jesse E. Carter |
| 6/17 Robert Kellum | 7/15 Jacob Hams | 8/4 Brooke Hatfield |
| 6/17 Bill Shannon | 7/15 Mackenzie Karg | 8/4 Sandra Hufford |
| 6/18 Karen Gaetz | 7/15 Kara King | 8/05 Jacob Pray |
| 6/18 Bob Harris | 7/15 Andrew Stephan | 8/06 Angel Sharp |
| 6/18 Blake Marcin | 7/17 Janet Jones | 8/07 Bill Olige |
| 6/18 June Spradlin | 7/18 Patricia Essex | 8/07 Liz Bumgarner |
| 6/18 Bobby Stephan | 7/18 Sherry McDarty | 8/08 Trudy Endress |
| 6/19 Megan Bryan | 7/18 Sarina Simpson | 8/09 Susan Cramer |
| 6/21 Clark McCloud | 7/20 Donna Heck | 8/09 Michael Owens |
| 6/22 Mary Bland | 7/21 Rob Dettmer | 8/10 Eric Hall |
| 6/23 Kathy Holmes | 7/21 Zac Faulkner | 8/10 Mary Jane Loomis |
| 6/24 James Matthews | 7/21 Leah Sence | 8/11 Brayden Bebout |
| 6/24 Beth Stephan | 7/21 Chrissie Womack | 8/11 Jesse Sturgill |
| 6/25 Brad Dutro | 7/22 Ryan Barringer | 8/13 Tim Brown |
| 6/26 Dick Eyler | | |
| 6/27 Tyler Diercks | | |
| 6/27 Kelly King | | |
| | | 8/13 Eileen Gronberg |
| | | 8/14 Carol Fahrbach |
| | | 8/14 Meredith Hayslett |
| | | 8/15 Katie Billhimer |
| | | 8/15 Janet Conover |
| | | 8/15 David Fuhrman |
| | | 8/15 Robert Haggard |
| | | 8/15 Jacob Wasserman |
| | | 8/17 Kyle Brady |
| | | 8/18 Martha Chalk |
| | | 8/19 Jacob Hanners |
| | | 8/20 Terry Fabisiak |
| | | 8/20 Megan Pierce |
| | | 8/21 Kirsten Essex |
| | | 8/21 Tina Robinson Sharp |
| | | 8/22 Reagan Fuhrman |
| | | 8/22 Shea Madigan |
| | | 8/22 Thomas Papai |
| | | 8/23 Wanda Shannon |
| | | 8/26 Evelyn Hermes |
| | | 8/26 Nancy Parker |
| | | 8/27 Kenrick Bebout |
| | | 8/27 Karen Dewitt |
| | | 8/28 Morgan Fuhrman |
| | | 8/28 Shirley Ingram |
| | | 8/28 Olaf Michelson |
| | | 8/28 Kari King |
| | | 8/29 Frank Honebrink II |
| | | 8/29 Jonathan Nutter |
| | | 8/29 Nicole Stephan |
| | | 8/30 Nicholas Fabisiak |
| | | 8/31 Karen Diercks |
| | | 8/31 Brett Parker |
| | | 8/31 Kevin Schmidt |
| | | 8/31 Michelle Termuhlen |
| | | 8/31 Susan Wallace |


Please send birthday and anniversary information for your family to Lyn in our office, including month/day/year.



Keep these people in your prayers



| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>CONTINUAL PRAYERS</p> <p>Adna Aicholz Martha Chalk Wanda Covert Bob Craig Thelma Faul Patrick Federle Morgan Fuhrman Wanda Hessler Frank Honebrink Pat Honebrink Lenore Jeffers Nella Johnson Donovan Johnson</p> | <p>E. K. Keller Earl Keys Julia Kostyn Clarence Lynn JoAnne Marohn Shirley Rose Maxine VanAken Lillian Wilson Jack and Eva Wilsey</p> <p>REMEMBER IN PRAYER</p> <p>The Fuhrman family Nelson and Susan Smith</p> | <p>Tilley family Brian Horning Chris Pray Phil Long Patti Kellish Abby Lynn Karen Bell Melissa Carrier Danny Morris Paul Vera Brown Mary Brown Upward Soccer John Gallo</p> | <p>Michelle Baumann Family of Harold Smith Family of Paul Palmer Lora Bodley Molly Cooney Charles and Evelyn Saffin Becky Newsome Dulle family</p> |
|---|---|---|--|



Our deepest care and sympathy go to

To Marsha Pattison and family in the passing of her brother, Jack Wildermuth.

To Joe and Judy Billups and family in the passing of his brother, Carl Billups.

To Evelyn Hermes and her brother and family in the passing of her sister-in-law Jeri Bischof.

| TRINITY ATTENDANCE | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| | 8:15 | 9:30 | 11:00 | Total |
| Sunday, April 24 | 110 | 245 | 181 | 536 |
| Sunday, May 01 | 35 | 138 | 90 | 263 |
| Sunday, May 08 | 59 | 197 | 116 | 372 |
| Sunday, May 15 | 47 | 143 | 126 | 316 |

Otterbein Lebanon 43rd Annual Fish Fry is Saturday, July 30, 2011
This is a wonderful opportunity to visit the United Methodist Retirement Village and enjoy the day.



Helping Hands Ministry is Reaching Out Need some help with some simple household tasks or transportation? Call or e-mail Pastor Laura, and she will pair you up with someone that will help you. (If you would like to be the help, let Pastor Laura know.)



NOTICE: To have items included in the **September** issue of *Trinity News* you need to submit them by **Sunday, August 21**. They can be given to the Church office, or e-mailed directly to Gene Wagner at ewagner3@cinci.rr.com.

THE HARDEST THING TO BELIEVE

I think the hardest thing for many people to believe is that the God of the universe actually loves and cares about each of us as individuals. We live in a vast universe, pulsing with stars being created and dying, galaxies centered with black holes and full of stars, many orbited by planets with life. How could God have the time and energy to react with each of his sentient beings, each person? If there are people living on other planets in our galaxy, and other planets in “a galaxy far, far away,” how could he possibly care for them all?

Probably a great percentage of people who say they believe in God, are deists. Deists are people who believe that God created the universe as we know it and then moved back to watch what would happen. He receded into the background, letting his creation work its will and leaving us at its mercy. In fact, most people prefer it that way because then they do not have to deal with his demands on their lives. God is better if he stays far away and out of their lives, letting them do what they want to do.

This misunderstanding of God is because we perceive God with the limitations we have as human beings. But Jesus said, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) Although we are created in his spiritual image, God is not a human. Paul reminded the Athenians that their poet Epimenides had said, “For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’” (Acts 17:28a). Although this is not a Jewish teaching, it explains what Jesus meant when he said that God was Spirit. We live within God, within his very being, at all times, everywhere. This makes his relationship to us an essential part of his essence. Think of this relationship as similar to how we relate to our hands. Our brains send signals via the nerves to our hands to do our work. In God’s being he directs our hands through the Holy Spirit. Indeed, we are the hands of God, living as an important part of his being, for it is those hands that do his work here in the world.

After thousands of years of Hebrew and Jewish history, after thousands of years of interacting with his chosen people, after many prophets told them that God loved and cared for them, and all that he demanded in return was love for him and other people, the Jewish people did not get the message. They filled their religion with laws and rules that suffocated living, telling everyone that only the perfect were loved by God, only the righteous would have their prayers answered, and all illness and misfortune was caused by sin.

The true nature of God was made clear when Jesus came to live among them. Jesus came to the poor, the sinners, and those who had no chance of living under the smothering rules that had been established. Jesus came loving, healing and liberating. He showed us a God that cared, that loved justice and mercy, not laws and rules for their own sake. All of these are Old Testament concepts that should have been well-known to the Jews, but they had developed a form of religion that was more palatable for it consisted of meaningless rules to be followed. They thought they could put God’s real demands in the background and concentrated on the minutia. (Unfortunately, there is a great temptation for Christians to do the very same thing.) This allows those who follow the rules to use them as a judgment against anyone who fails to follow them. For some reason, this is more appealing to people than following the Biblical concepts that celebrate a life of love, forgiveness, repentance, justice, mercy, sacrifice and service to our fellowman.

So strong was the devotion to this legalistic interpretation of Judaism that when Jesus came challenging it, he had to be destroyed. However, God raised Jesus from the dead, dramatically proving that Jesus was correct in his teachings. God exerted his spirit nature to change forever the physical world that people lived in. As Robert Hereth wrote in the Lenten Devotional “Lift High the Cross”, “The world ridicules the idea of a loving God as a pie-eyed wish. But Jesus refutes that. A resurrected Jesus definitely confirms there must be a God who can do that. So sacrifice and service are the strength, not weakness. Love wins, not evil. Life wins, not death, all perfectly demonstrated on the cross and empty tomb.”

If we never see any other “miracle” in this life, the resurrection of Jesus is enough. It stands as the most important event in the history of the world. And it establishes God as our ever present reality, an awesome loving being to be cherished, loved and obeyed—the being we live in.

Just for Fun!

Like water does to the body, laughter does to the soul

Here's what some of the M-Squad at Trinity have learned:

I'VE LEARNED THAT you must study the Bible. It's the best users' manual. (age 59)

I'VE LEARNED THAT you must save money, retire early, enjoy life, then realize you do not need so much money to make you truly happy. (age 59)

I'VE LEARNED THAT you should do what you can today! Don't wait for tomorrow. Tomorrow may never come.

I'VE LEARNED THAT love and family are more important than things in life.

I'VE LEARNED THAT people look at your heart for who you are—not your outward appearance. (age 59)

I'VE LEARNED THAT life is uncertain. Eat dessert first. (age 58)

I'VE LEARNED THAT it isn't good to get old! (age 78)

I'VE LEARNED THAT everyone needs someone!

I'VE LEARNED THAT what counts are the three F's; Family, Friends, Faith. (age 81)

I'VE LEARNED THAT you should always listen to your wife. (age 69)

I'VE LEARNED THAT a smile given is returned. (age 68)

I'VE LEARNED THAT one needs to laugh a lot, love a lot and enjoy every day. (age 68)

I'VE LEARNED THAT a sandbox can be as much fun at age 54 as it used to be at age 4—as long as you are playing in the sand with your grandchild.

I'VE LEARNED THAT overeating is unhealthy and uncomfortable, however it can be a constant challenge to control. (age 74)

Send me what YOU have learned.

Many schools are in crisis. Comedian Joe Hickman said, "At first I wanted to be a cop, but you have to be 6'1", know karate, and carry a gun. Then I thought I'd be a school teacher, but you have to be 6'1", know karate and carry a gun.

It's a good idea to have children while your parents are still young enough to take care of them.
Rita Rudner

When former major leaguer, Bob Uecker was asked, "How did you handle pressure as a player?" he replied, "It was easy. I'd strike out and put the pressure on the guy behind me."

The best way to be sure your grandchildren will thank you for their birthday present is to send a check and forget to sign it.

"Good grief," cried Whistler, when he saw his mother on her hands and knees scrubbing the floor: "Are you off your rocker?"