

Trinity Parish

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church • Camp Hill, Pennsylvania • April 2008 Edition
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Stewardship Adopts Theme for 2008

Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share

“Declare how much God has done for you.” – Luke 8:39
“We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard!” – Acts 4:20

We all have stories to tell: humorous happenings, learning experiences, news about our families, triumphs and tragedies, and plans for the future. And as the people of God, we have stories to tell about what God has done for us and about the difference that God’s grace has made in our lives.

At our recent church council retreat, council members and committee chairs sat in awe as we listened to each other tell the story of what brought us to Trinity and what God has done in each of our lives. Running with the wrong crowd turned into a commitment to Christ, sadly, but surprisingly, the death of parents resulted in a stronger faith, a broken marriage led to a better understanding of what God had in store.

It seemed none of the stories was complete without a recitation of the litany of gifts that were given to each of us: wonderful children, grandchildren, parents, friends, roofs over our heads, retirement programs, and - a true abundance - in fact - more than enough. It became clear that the gifts that were given were given for a reason; they were gifts to share - gifts to build up the body of Christ.

We at Trinity have a whole church full of people with “stories to tell and gifts to share.” So much so, in fact, that this will be the theme of our year-long Stewardship emphasis. When we hear and see how much God has done, and is doing, not only for us, but through our missions, our social ministry, how can we, when confronted with all the abundance of God, not give freely of what we have been given?

That’s not all! Whether we know it or not, we also have stories to tell about what God has done *through* us—stories about how God has used us to make a difference in the lives of others. Getting to know those stories makes us even more aware of God’s grace.

The Bible is, likewise, a collection of stories about people with gifts to share—stories about people whose lives were so changed by God that they were able to make a difference in the lives of others. In the coming year, we will be focused on *storytelling* and on *giving*—and to think of both storytelling and giving as grateful responses to the grace of God.

Joe Fidler
Stewardship Chair



Welcome, Wanda Durf!

Welcome to our new receptionist Wanda Durf. Wanda, a native of central Pennsylvania, is a warm and sincere person with a quiet personality. Wanda, her husband, and two children live in the Mount Holly Springs area. She brings with her some wonderful office skills and a great sense of humor.

New Members Received

Welcome to the Trinity Family

The following new members were received into membership Sunday February 24, 2008: Paul Askey; Mark, Diane, and Erika Borger; Danielle Brier, and Adrienne and Caroline Straub; Laura Comitz, and Jalen and Payden Farner; Lorraine Graybill; Daniel, Pamela, Michael, Cory, Marc, and Kasey Grundon; Beth Hahn; Elaine and Jacob Kintzer; Rebecca Maher and Alexander and Maxwell Schertzer; Melissa Martenis; Judith Messinger; William, Karen, Nicole, Kyle, and Courtney Purnell; Janice Reid; Ronald and Gale Rostalski; Ronald, Michelle McCartney, and Isabella Rostalski; Mark, Susan, Amie, Kaja, and Alexander Spaseff; Dorothy Wallman; Paul and Barbara Wargo.



Blood Bank News

Trinity's next blood drive is May 18, and sign up will be held after all services on May 4 and May 11. Jeanie Bentzel has a request for all people planning to donate on May 18. Please be sure to sign up early—Sunday, May 4 would be great, but we will be there on the 11th. Many thanks to the people who donate blood at the hospitals and donor centers. We had 13 donors during the month of February. This really helps Trinity get closer to their goal. Sixteen year old members, as well as their friends, are now eligible to donate as long as they have a signed permission blank, which you can get at the sign-up table on May 4 or 11.



Remember, sign up early! You can also call me at 766-3526. Thanks loads for making my job easier.

STAFF NOTES

So Many Choices

Okay . . . I finally shopped there. After being urged numerous times to go to this certain new grocery store that had opened, after being told yet again that I'd love shopping at it, I actually went there one day.

It's a fine store. Except it's further away from my home than I'd like. And I have to fight more traffic to get there. And I'm quite content shopping at the nearby grocery store to which I've become accustomed, which itself was recently rebuilt and expanded.

Plus, the new grocery store simply has too many choices. I don't need 15 types of granola cereal. My family wants granola cereal with raisins and granola cereal without raisins. That's all. This new store's dizzying array of grocery items only makes my head spin, and my decision-making more difficult.

Of course, the problem is not just with grocery shopping. All of life is filled with a dizzying array of choices before us. Sometimes the right choice to make is clear. Many times, however, it is **not** clear what the right choice is, and we become so terribly bogged down in the process of deciding that we can scarcely make the right choice, much less any choice at all.

Just prior to Moses announcing that his helper Joshua (and the Lord God) would lead the Israelites as they crossed over the River Jordan into the Promised Land, Moses laid before his people a choice: *See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today . . . walking in his ways, and observing his commandments . . . then you shall live . . .*" (Deuteronomy 30:15-16a). Moses urged them to choose wisely by choosing life, by loving the Lord God and holding fast to him. In one way, this was a simple choice, at least in terms of options. Obey or stray. That's clear enough. But the consequences of the choice would be life-altering, and that was what Moses expressed to his people, so prone to wandering. Obey or stray? Live or die.

When you and I face the toughest choices—not which granola cereal to buy, but, rather, the decisions that have ramifications for us and those around us for possibly years to come, we need the wisdom of our God who gave us the freedom to make choices in the first place. Know this—first, God's wisdom can be found in His authoritative word located in scripture and sacrament and proclamation. (Moses hints at this when he says, ". . . the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth

Alzheimer Support Group

will meet Wednesday, April 23

7-9 p.m. in the Library

For more information, contact Donna Sprowls

766-8075 or sprowlsd@aol.com

Trinity Parish Deadline

Deadline for the May 2008 Edition of *Trinity Parish* is: Thursday, April 10, 2008. Please forward all articles to the Editor, Donna Sprowls at parish@trinitycamphill.org

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and in your heart for you to observe.” (Deut. 30:14). Second, God’s wisdom can be found in the ongoing teaching and prayerful discernment of a community of faith such as Trinity Lutheran Church.

The point is, we do not stand alone, staring at the many choices before us, hopelessly bogged down. “Choose life!” Moses’ words are the compelling, encouraging words the church still offers to us, words we can still offer to each other. With God’s help in these means, the wise choice of obedience and faithfulness will be made by God’s people.

The Reverend Nancy R. Easton

Book Group

The Book Discussion Group is open to all members of Trinity! We meet the third Sunday of every month in Room 232-234 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Books chosen through June 2008 are:

- April 20 **“A Thousand Splendid Suns”**, by Khalid Hosseini
- May 18 **“Three Cups of Tea”**, by Greg Mortenson
- June 15 **“Water for Elephants”**, by Sara Green

For more information about the book discussion group, please contact Craig Staller at c.staller@verizon.net.

Birthdays

Homebound Members

- April 4 **Gloria Shuman**
3824 Trindle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
- April 19 **Sylvia Kutchman**
1716 Lincoln Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011
- April 23 **Isabelle Guise**
100 Freemason Drive, Apt. 3581-B
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
- April 25 **Bob Middleton**
824 Lisburn Road, Apt. 315
Camp Hill, PA 17011
- April 30 **Jean Titzell**
519 Village Blvd.
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Discipleship Opportunities

Flower Delivery Team

Serve on a flower delivery team that delivers flowers to members in area hospitals following services on Sunday. You would be asked to serve one or two times per month on assigned months every seven months. Time requirement: one to two hours on Sunday following the completion of the 11:00 a.m. service. Contact: Jeff Weaver, Chair, Worship Committee (697-3259)

Nave Sound Board Operator

Operate the sound control board in the nave balcony during the 8:15, 11:00 a.m. or special services held in the nave. Time requirement: Once or twice a month, 15 minutes before the service until service has ended. Contact: Jeff Weaver, Chair, Worship Committee (697-3259)

Office Support

Basic computer skills are needed to enter information provided by the office staff – i.e. attendance records, address changes and new member data. Time required: One to four hours per week (morning or afternoon) as needed. Contact: Nancy Martin, Office Manager (737-9921, Ext. 224)

Letters to Trinity

Dear Trinity Members and Pastors:

A heartfelt thank you for the prayers and cards received during my recent hospitalization. Mary and I appreciate the prayer shawl and the beautiful altar flowers. Special thanks to Pastor Easton and Vicar Mike for their visits and spiritual strength imparted to me

In Christian Love,

Jerry Tome

Dear Trinity Members,

A special thank you to all who have faithfully supported our Operation Shoebox project since its inception in July 2005. To date we have sent more than 750 care packages. The L. H. Kinnard Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers recently received the Project Excellence Life Enrichment Award for Operation Shoebox. Our project is ongoing and we hope to send out many more care packages in the future.

Thank you again for your generosity. God bless.

Joyce Grier

YG News

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The 2008 YG (youth group) season is now in full gear. There is so much on the YG calendar. We are now in our busiest part of the YG year. Still, the time is right to make a fresh start and get on out to YG and see what we are all about. We have something YG related on almost every weekend. YG is a place for everyone in grades 6-12, so get on out to YG soon and take part in all of the faith, fun and fellowship. Just to let you know what YG is all about, here is a taste of what we did in the month of February.

We started off the month on the 1st and 2nd with a JR. HIGH SLEEPOVER. Around 30 Jr. High YG plus four advisors came out for the night of total fun and fellowship. We played games, ate pizza, watched a movie and just got to spend time together. The night was awesome in every way and the turnout was great. We now have a very big Jr. High group at YG. The very next day was SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. The Souper Bowl of Caring has become an annual event here at Trinity and this year the YG went bigger and better. This year we took the Souper Bowl to a whole new level. During the month of January at all of the meetings I had the YG bring canned goods and non-perishable foods to the YG meetings instead of bringing snacks like usual. They stepped it up big time, and brought tons of canned goods and non-perishables. We then invited the congregation to take part with us through temple talks, news articles, and bulletin announcements. The congregation support was amazing as well. So much more food was brought in by congregation members. The congregation also made a great impact with their giving. All in all, we were able to raise \$1,555.35 which is more than ever before. This was our first year that we collected food items and we were able to get over 500 of them – which was awesome! Our charity this year was THE BRIDGE in New Cumberland. They were truly overwhelmed by what we were able to give them both in food and money. It was by far the biggest donation they have ever received. It will go a long way to help the folks in need in our West Shore community. Everyone did a great job! Next up on the 10th was our first YG MEETING of the month. Around 50 YG and advisors came out for the



night. The topic of the meeting was SAID HERE, STAYS HERE (one of our YG rules). This meeting and rule was designed to teach kids the importance of creating an atmosphere of trust and security at YG to invite open sharing and conversation. This night was full of deep conversation in large group and small group. Much faith, fun and fellowship were had by all. Lastly, we closed down the busy month on the 24th with another YG MEETING. Around 50 YG and advisors came out for the night. At this meeting we tackled the YG rule EXPRESS YOURSELF. This meeting and rule was designed to help YG grow in confidence by sharing themselves and their gifts with others. In short this meeting was all about helping the YG focus in on their gifts and teaching them how to share those with others. Well, that was February for you, and it was a busy one. Bring on March, the busiest month of the YG year ...

Yours in Christ,

Peter A. Fox
Youth Ministry Director

Weekly Prayer List

March 30-April 5: Rebecca and Alexander Pautz; Judith Patton; Timothy Patterson; Gabrielle Patterson; Linda Paterson and Ashley Machado; Sharon Pastucka, and Andrew and Lauren Wagner; Margaret Parker. **April 6-12:** Robert and Barbara Park; Matthew and Denise Park; Heather Palumbo; Kathy Palmer; Mindy Palmer and Justin Jacobs; Brian, Jordan, and Taylor Palmer; Maya Atherholt-Pabis. **April 13-19:** Richard and Katherine Oyler; Jack Oyler; David Oyler; Marcia Oxenreider; Ellie Oxenreider; Suzanne and Alexis Ott; Charlotte and Michael Ortiz. **April 20-26:** Randall and Eric Ort; John and Shirley Orris; Tia Orner; Garry, Doris, Michelle, and Michael Orner; Esther Orndorff; Erma Oman; James and Marie Olson; Randy, Tammy, Chase, and Max Ober. **April 27-May 3:** Harry O'Donnell; Thomas and Barbara O'Byrne; Ben and Lennie Nyman; Catherine Nye; Edward, Sandra, Amy, and Jennifer Nolan; Micki Noaker; Jeffrey and Tamea Noaker.

Hymn Sing!



Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing

The small-group SUNDAYS AT SIX will be holding an old fashioned hymn-sing on Sunday night, April 13, from 6-7 p.m. in the Chapel. Lori Anne McBride will play the piano, while we sing our favorite hymns from the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. All are welcome – and encouraged – to join us as we lift our voices in song to our Lord Most High.

Artist of the Month

Chung Ja Moon

For Korean born artist Chung Ja Moon, who now makes her home in Harrisburg, but who exhibits her work internationally, art is both a personal response and an open invitation. Each of her paintings is created in response to the artist's deeply personal experience through Buddhist meditation.

However intensely personal her experience may be though, Moon's intention is also to share it as widely as possible through her paintings.

"The process of my work is not bound to traditional forms. It is not based on precise plans or rules arranged logically or scientifically. It is rooted in an impromptu and instinctual inspiration, pure feeling and emotion which are flowing deeply in my mind.

"In order to find my own way I do endless trials. What I insist on is that to paint is more than the technique. In a painting there should be life. What an artist should do is to put a life into one's painting. I wish to make my painting alive and breathing. In a line, a plane and even a dot there should be a mystery of wriggling life without distinguishing abstract or realistic painting.

"God made human beings. Artists make another life through art so that real artists are great. But to get to that stage I have to smash myself into pieces and without being conscious of myself, when I negate myself I no longer think of my own existence, then my painting will be alive singing the joy of new life."

New Stole for Pastor Laurie Roberts

On December 2, 2007, as President of Congregation Council, I had the privilege of representing Trinity by giving a blue liturgical stole to Laurie Roberts during the morning worship service at Messiah Lutheran Church in Harrisburg. It has been a practice at Trinity that the congregation presents previous members of our congregation with a stole when they become rostered with the ELCA.



Laurie was very appreciative of Trinity's thoughtful, caring gesture. He has sent Trinity a thank you note that was read at all Trinity services.

Tim Trissler

Thank You from Susan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all your gifts, cards and beautiful words. I was touched by everyone. It was a pleasure serving you these past 15 years. You all made it a very pleasurable experience. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Susan Pennington

Beginning Experience Weekend

If you are struggling through the loss of your spouse through separation, divorce or death, consider a Beginning Experience weekend. **HARRISBURG BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is a peer ministry focused on healing through spirituality and a sense of community. The next Beginning Experience weekend is April 25-27, 2008 at Precious Blood Spiritual Center in Columbia, PA.

For more information call Eva at 717 246-1035 or Greg (Trinity member) at 763-0977 or send an e-mail to HarrisburgBE@hotmail.com. You may also find out more about Beginning Experience on the web at www.beginningexperience.org.

Women of Trinity's Visitation Ministry Program

The purpose of the Women of Trinity Visitation Ministry Program is to visit members who are unable to attend church because they live in a nursing home or are homebound. There are about fifty members who are visited, and approximately forty people who visit them at least once a month. These visits are in addition to those made by the pastors.



During the visits, volunteers who participate in this program listen to the concerns of these members, and offer to pray with them or read from the bible. They share what's going on at church and ensure that the members are receiving the church newsletter and other communications so that they can continue to feel connected to Trinity. At Christmas, visitors deliver cookies and poinsettias to brighten the holidays; at Easter, they take lilies.

Elsie Corlett (pictured above with Trinity members, Dave and Beckie Brunner) is one such member who enjoys being visited each month. She previously knew the people who visit with her, and she describes their visits as 'wonderful' and 'like visiting with old friends'. She especially enjoyed receiving 'delicious cookies and poinsettias' this past Christmas.

Men, women, and couples are invited to become part of this important ministry. The main qualities that are desired are to have a caring heart and listening ear. There is a training program which provides guidelines and resources for visitors. It was introduced last year to promote consistency and enhance the effectiveness of the visits. Also this past year, because they are performing this ministry as representatives of Trinity Lutheran Church, visitors started being commissioned, or blessed, at a service after completing the training program.

If you would like to become part of this caring ministry, or if you know of a member who would welcome visits but currently is not part of the program, please contact Beckie Brunner at 975-8827 or Joan Gamber at 761-3798 for additional information.

Women of Trinity Circle Meeting Schedule

Women of Trinity Circles meet at various times once a month, and all women are welcome to join any Circle meeting. No registration is required.

The Circles have been studying from the book, **Proverbs: Wisdom That Works**, by Vinita Hampton Wright. Passages from the book of Proverbs are the basis for discussion of twelve topics relating to real life today. Each circle selects subjects from the text that are of interest to its particular members. The April meetings will be held as follows:

CIRCLE NAME	CIRCLE TIME & LOCATION
Deborah	April 1, 9:30 a.m., Library
Ruth	April 1, 9:30 a.m., Room 237
Elizabeth	April 1, 1:30 a.m., Library
Lydia	April 2, 6:30 p.m., Library
Martha Mary	April 3, 9:15 a.m., Room 228-230 Childcare in Room 225.
Esther	April 7, 7:00 p.m., Library

Trinity Prayer Concerns

Dear Lord,

- Your strength and wisdom is great beyond all measure. We are thankful to be in the hands of such a loving Creator. Please remind us that You are always there for us in times of happiness and times of trial.
- Father in heaven, please guide our thoughts and deeds to fulfill Your purpose and plan. And draw us near to You. Help us to model Your grace to a world that doesn't know You, except for what they see in us.
- Help *each* of us to realize that we'll never know how many souls will be affected when we lead just one person to your Son, Jesus Christ.
- Please help us to never forget that You help guide our lives. Please give us opportunities to *often* and *openly* share all the wonderful things You have done for each of us.
- May the men and women of our parish bring glory, praise and honor to Your Name. And, this month we *especially* ask You to shower Your blessings upon our "Lutheran Men in Mission" and "Women of Trinity".

In Jesus' Name... Amen.

Parish Ministry

Our hospitalized and at-home members are listed in the narthex and Gathering Space. Your prayers, cards and visits to them are invited so that Christ may be glorified by the manner in which HIS people care for each other.

HEALTH TIP:

Do you want to be sure children are doing a good job washing their hands? Make it a game and have them sign 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' two times while washing. Then dry their hands on a paper towel and use the towel to turn off the faucet.

Greetings from Grace Lutheran Church, New Orleans

On January 21, I had the opportunity to visit Pastor Leon Philpot of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Orleans, and Grace's Coordinator for Community Development, Caitlin Moen. I was in the Gulf Coast, primarily in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, for a week doing Katrina recovery work. Several members of our team visited Grace and St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans, which was also heavily damaged by Katrina. During the time we spent with Pastor Philpot,



we heard stories not only of Grace's recovery, but also about the community itself. Grace was severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina (August 29, 2005). While there are few remaining signs of the devastation at Grace,

their Gathering Space had many reminders: photographs, and a cross made from several organ pipes from their totally destroyed Moller pipe organ (see picture above). Pastor Philpot said Grace has a commitment to being one of the instruments in the recovery of the community. In the two and a half years after Katrina, many of the neighborhoods are no more than 20% recovered, while others are no more than 40% recovered.

One way Grace helps is to house recovery efforts volunteer teams. Caitlin Moen's job, funded by a one year grant, is to match up the volunteers with the coordinating organizations of recovery efforts, such as Habitat for Humanity. Pastor Philpot sends his greetings to Trinity, Camp Hill, who has helped Grace through our 2006 and 2007 Lenten Self Denial offerings in totaling over \$8600. He also expressed that their biggest fear is the next natural disaster, even one that's not in the Gulf Coast. Such a disaster will pull money and volunteers away from needed work in Mississippi and Louisiana, work that will take at least eight to ten years to complete.

The recovery situation in Mississippi was no better than in New Orleans. Lutheran Disaster Response estimates that Mississippi is also only about 20% recovered. As we worked, we

heard stories from flood survivors.

We talked with Jeffrie, in his 80's, whose house was flooded and uninhabitable. He received a FEMA grant that enabled him to get out of his house



until his FEMA trailer arrived. His money ran out before the trailer arrived, so he moved into the only semi-habitable room in his house, where he was eventually found, very sick from the mold and mildew. He was hospitalized for several weeks. Eventually his trailer finally arrived, and his house was rehabilitated of his house was completed by volunteers. Jeffrie is extremely



thankful, despite all he went through. I had felt called to go to the Gulf Coast for some time to help with the recovery effort, but hadn't done anything to act on that call. God presented

me with an opportunity that I could no longer ignore. I am thankful that God did and I expect to return for another work trip. I hope others, hopefully many others, will be able to serve on work teams in the Gulf Coast or any other area of need and be witnesses to the love of Christ.

Jeff Weaver



Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Worship, Dinner and a Movie Night – Saturday, April 12

Here's your opportunity to once again enjoy the 2005 film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and refresh your memory before the sequel *Prince Caspian* is released in theatres on May 16. Trinity's Fellowship Team is sponsoring dinner and the movie following worship on Saturday, April 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Join us for worship first at 5:30 or come for just the meal and movie. Bring a comfortable lawn chair if you like.

Christopher Couch will give us a brief overview of the film and its bible symbolism and parallels; we'll enjoy another of the wonderful meals prepared by Doug Bonsall and Joe Hunter; and we'll watch a great movie together. A free will offering will be collected to defray the cost of the meal.

The film is rated PG for battle sequences and frightening moments. It has a runtime of 143 minutes.

Please sign up in the Gathering Space starting Sunday, March 30 so that we know how many we may expect.

Trinity presents

Expressions of Faith Sunday, May 4 ≈ 7:00 p.m.

Join FaithX and Trinity's children's choirs as they present Expressions of Faith on Sunday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The concert is part of Trinity's 2007-2008 concert series. The concert features the Carol and Crusade Choirs and includes a delicious dessert buffet.

This annual contemporary Christian music event will incorporate familiar songs like *In the Secret*, and *Never Cease to Praise* as well as new music. Pastor Easton will provide a perspective on the music and its meaning for today's Christians.

Whether you have attended Trinity's contemporary worship services or you like an occasional upbeat song, there's something for everyone in the program and you may find yourself singing along! Bring your friends and enjoy a memorable evening!