

Trinity Parish

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church · Camp Hill, Pennsylvania · February 2009 Edition
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

WHAT A YEAR WITH CHRIST: President's Report

With the Holy Spirit guiding us, we brothers and sisters in fellowship with Christ here at Trinity Church have continued Christ's ministries to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world. I offer several highlights of our service this year:

- Development of a proposed new mission statement expected to be considered by the congregation this year to replace our existing statement and intended to better enhance and focus our activities and worship along key guiding principles;
- Expansion of our volunteer service ministries with the hiring of a Spiritual Gifts Coordinator – Judy Collins;
- Continued partnering with Zion Lutheran Church in downtown Harrisburg as an urban social ministry activity;
- Establishment of a long term mortgage with attractive rates and conditions to address our remaining \$1.3 million capital debt. This arrangement has resulted in better than expected resources available for our ministries. To reduce the remaining debt we initiated a new capital campaign in Pastor Hardy's name;
- Celebration of Pastor Hardy's 25th anniversary of his ordination and initial planning for Pastor's retirement in January 2010; and
- Continued hard working, dedicated staff and volunteers at all levels.

Of course, Trinity continued its ministries to which its people are so dedicated and sharing of their gifts and talents. For example:

- Excellent music, arts, education, and youth programs;
- Thought-provoking sermons based on biblical text as applied to the joy, pain, and concerns of living in the 21st Century; and
- Active community service projects to help our neighbors.

What vitality and energy is present in all we do! We are so blessed in our desire to act as good stewards of our talents and resources in Christ's name. Respect and consideration of the various styles of worship, living, mission and theology is key to Trinity...and our strength as we move forward.

Continued on page 3.

Trinity Concert Series 2008/2009 Presents

The Thiel College Choir Greenville, PA



Dr. Michael Bray, conductor
*Saturday, February 28, 2009 * 7:00 p.m.*

SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING 2009

THE YG INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SERVICE EVENT ON FEBRUARY 1, 2009. HELP THE YG SUPPORT OTHERS BY BRINGING YOUR MONEY AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 1. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS YG SERVANT EVENT GO TO SUPPORT "THE BRIDGE". IT IS A FOOD PANTRY IN NEW CUMBERLAND THAT SPECIALIZES IN FEEDING THE PEOPLE OF OUR OWN WEST SHORE COMMUNITY. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR YG SERVICE CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009 AT ALL CHURCH SERVICES AND IN THE GATHERING SPACE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

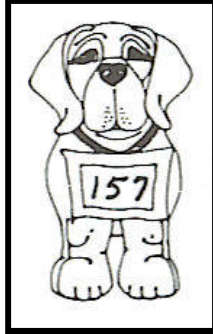
Mark Your Calendars Now!!!

MUSIC FESTIVAL WITH COMPOSER MICHAEL BURKHARDT
Combined Choirs, Brass Ensemble, Handbells

Sunday, March 22, 2009 * 4:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, PA

Blood Bank News

WOW! Trinity did it again! Our yearly total of blood donations for 2008 was 218. That is much higher than the goal set for us by the Central PA Blood Bank, and I hate to admit it, but it is better than "Jeanie's Goal!" Does this mean we can just sit back and tell ourselves how wonderful Trinity's blood donors are? Of course not, and Jeanie will not stop reminding you to donate either!



We started at the big 0 on January 1, 2009 and already we are off and running. I have faith that we had a successful drive on January 18. (This February article had to be submitted January 10.) Our next drive at church will be on Sunday, May 17. Your donation can be made at church three times a year, at any of the donor centers or hospitals, or at any Community Blood Drive you may see advertised. Please tell them #157 or mention Trinity Lutheran, Camp Hill. Remember, **the rarest blood type is the type that's not available when you need it!**

Jeanie Bentzel

**Alzheimer's Support Group
Will meet February 18, 2009,
from 7-9 p.m. in the library.**

For more information, contact Donna Sprowls at
766-8075 or SPROWLSD@aol.com

Trinity Parish Deadline

The deadline for the March 2009 Edition of *Trinity Parish* is Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Please forward all articles to the Editor, Donna Sprowls at parish@trinitycamphill.org

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JUDY K. COLLINS, *Spiritual Gifts Coordinator*
DONNA V. SPROWLS, *Editor*

STAFF NOTES

Penalty Flags A-Flying

I'm writing this article during days plentiful with college bowl contests and professional football teams scrambling their way to the Super Bowl. You know, I love watching football. However, as this is a fairly recent phenomenon, I am a novice when it comes to rules of the game. Especially penalties. I have trouble telling when there's been an infraction of some sort. Oh, I understand "false start" and "roughing the kicker" and "facemask." But I simply can't figure out "holding" and "off sides" and "interference." The plays look perfectly legal to me. But they're not. For guidance here I'm tempted to pull out a book from our shelf at home: *Football for Dummies*.

The fact that I can't discern illegal moves is a reality not just on the playing field, but in our everyday lives as well. Look, certain "infractions" of ours (call them "sins" to be more accurate) are obvious to all, including ourselves. Upon reflection and self-examination—that brief time we enter at the opening of most worship services—we remember and recognize the wrongs we have done to God and to our neighbor. Often those wrongs are indisputable, the evidence so clearly implicating us. Couldn't challenge them if we tried!

But just as often, our infractions are unknown to us. We sin, and don't even realize it. We hurt our neighbor but remain oblivious to their pain. We dishonor God and move blithely on. So focused on our own concerns, we often are unaware of the deep, destructive consequences of our words and deeds. That is truly scary. And disheartening.

But is there hope to be found? Is there a way out of our predicament? Yes. God offers us opportunity to make confession for things we never realized we did. Let's just call it *Repentance for Dummies*, for lack of a better term. For example, in one confessional liturgy we often use in worship, we say in unison: "... We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown ..."

There. We admit it. By our nature, we humans cannot always discern when we have done wrong. But God knows, for God knows us. The facts of our sin are indisputable to God.

And here is where the hope kicks in. Here is the way out of our predicament.

In our time of confession, we do not challenge the stark truth about ourselves, but instead, humbly ask for God's love, mercy, and forgiveness to make us right, and draw us back to him. Then our Lord Jesus, the very Son of God, who has paid the penalty for our infractions, will offer us the chance to begin life anew.

What freedom, what joy abounds in such second chances! What thankfulness for the power and goodness of God!

The Reverend Nancy R. Easton

Stories to Tell, Gifts to Share Sixty Something

We are the Sixty Somethings! For us, that means we're retired and living on a fixed, but comfortable, income. In many ways, our faith journeys are similar. We each grew up in households where the church was a significant part of our lives. We were expected to go to Sunday school and worship each Sunday and we also participated in other church activities such as youth group. So it's not surprising that the church became a significant part of our lives together when we were married forty years ago. An yet it was not until being part of a faith community went from being what we were expected to do to being what we wanted to do that our faith became real. Now we can truly say that our relationship with Jesus Christ is what is most important in our relationship with each other. We are continually amazed that God wants to spend time with us, and as a result, the time we spend with God in the morning with our personal prayers and devotions has become a very important part of the day.

Many years ago, we were led to start tithing our income, because we wanted to give back to God at least 10% of what he has given us. To us, the biblical imperative is to give the first fruits and for many years that meant writing the checks to Trinity first with each pay and then living off what was left. We've now taken that imperative even further. Our decision to have our tithes automatically transferred to Trinity each week through one of Trinity's eGiving options further solidifies our response to the biblical imperative to tithe with our first fruits. Now we would have to take a specific action **not** to tithe. However, there are still decisions to be made. Do we buy an American Girl doll for our granddaughter or do we give more to World Hunger? Having limited funds helps us to question our desires and true needs. And so we learn that we will always have questions that must be asked and decisions that must be made concerning how we use our money, as well as our time and our talents.

Through the years as part of the Trinity family, God has led us into His service in many different ways and has also made it clear to us when it is time to withdraw from service in one capacity and to move on to something else, or even to just take a break for renewal. Since we retired, we've found that we've been led to serve in some ways that weren't possible before, such as Jeff taking a week to help with Katrina recovery efforts in Mississippi.

Now we find that we are entering a new phase of our lives. We never dreamed that our children and grandchildren would live as close to us as they do. What a blessing that has been for us! Now is a time when we find that we are both wanted and needed in their lives. And that means that some of the things that have been important in our lives at Trinity must be set aside for awhile. But we know that this is what God wants us to do with our lives right now.

God has always been with us even when we could not see Him. His love has gotten us through the very sad times and the very joyous times. We do not know what lies ahead, but God has given us a wonderful history, and because of this we do know that God is good and will always be with us.

Bert and Jeff Weaver

The Crosses of Trinity

Last March, the Gathering Space art display featured the **Crosses of Trinity** – photographs of many of the crosses that are an important part of our worship life at Trinity. The Crosses of Trinity will return as the Gathering Space art display in April. We are seeking additions to the photographs that were displayed last March. Everyone is encouraged to participate, including those who contributed to the displays last march, and all framed photographs received will be displayed along with those that were part of the original exhibit. Neither special photographic expertise nor expensive, high quality cameras are required – just your willingness to share our symbols of the love of Jesus for us by his death on the cross through the lens of your camera. There is also an instruction sheet for photographers available in the Gathering Space or the church office as well as on-line at www.trinitycamphill.org/CrossesOfTrinity/. The instruction sheet provides all of the necessary details. If you have questions, please contact Jeff Weaver at 697-3259, Maggie Ackerman at 790-9345 or Christopher Couch at 737-8635, or send an e-mail to Trinity-Crosses@Trinitycamphill.org.

President's Report continued from page 1.

One major forewarning - the troubled economic times we all are experiencing have not missed Trinity. Our situation forced us to freeze salaries and reduce our committees' budgets by 10% in 2009. This was not done without impact on our ministries. Yet, despite these cutbacks and these difficult times, Christ's message through Trinity Church and the community we foster can increasingly become a respite, guiding light, and comfort for us all.

I am humbled to have served as your President as we carry on Christ's work – loving, caring, respectful service to persons of all walks and creeds, a suffering and turbulent planet, and especially in nurturing our families and children.

May God bless all for the work they do in Christ's name!

Bob Frymoyer

YG News

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG (youth group) is ready for 2009. Now we get to the busy part of the YG season. The YG calendar is the most jam-packed that it has ever been. New YG Nites, new retreats, new events, and new friendships all await our YG participants in 2009. A lot of hard work has gone into this year to make it a success. There is truly something on almost every weekend. It will be all good! Just so you are in the know, here is what we did in the month of December.

December is the slowest month of the YG year every year (which is good) We kicked off the month on Friday, December 5 through Sunday, December 7 with our YG WINTER RETREAT@ Camp Seltzer. Around 45 YG and advisors went along for this faith filled weekend. The title of the retreat was SELF IMAGE and it focused in on how our youth see themselves to others. We especially talked to the youth about how they should see themselves through God's eyes. In short, we explored "who we are as children of God" and "what makes us special and unique". It was an EXTREMELY powerful and moving retreat. We got to really dig into scripture and have many deep discussions. It was definitely one of the best YG retreats ever! We closed down the month with our annual YG CHRISTMAS CAROLING & CHRISTMAS PARTY. Around 50 YG and advisors came out to support this event. We started the night off by heading to Manor Care Nursing Home to Christmas Carol to all of the good folks there. The folks at Manor Care appreciated us so much as they do every year. It was a very powerful, moving and rewarding night, not to mention a good service that we do as a YG. Then we came back to the church for games, food, and togetherness. We closed the night and year off with prayer. Well, that was December for you, and it was a great close to a great year.

In January, the YG is once again stepping up its SERVICE with the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING. This is an event in which the YG collect money on Super Bowl Sunday from the congregation to give to a charity/food pantry. In the past we have given the money to the Alison Hill Community Food Bank and the Central PA Food Bank just to name a few. This year we are focused once again in support of 'THE BRIDGE' which is a food bank in New Cumberland. As with last year, we are taking the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING one step further. During the month of January the YG will be bringing non-perishable food items to every YG meeting instead of snacks. We hope to gather as much food as possible along with the money. I think the YG will step up and bring tons of food donations. We also look to involve the congregation with this campaign. In short, we want to get everyone involved in service to others. The YG will be posting many flyers around the church. See the front page for a copy of one of our flyers listing how you can be involved in our SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2009. That's all for now, just wanted to share some of the things that the YG is doing in service to others. Well, I'm off, the rest of January and the YG season awaits.

Yours in Christ,

Peter A. Fox
Youth Ministry Director

REMINDER:

ALSO, PLEASE COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YG FUNDRAISERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE NEED TO RAISE A LOT OF MONEY FOR THE ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING NEXT SUMMER IN NEW ORLEANS.

Trinity's Softball Team

Trinity's Softball Team placed second last year in the West Shore Churches Softball League (men and women 18 years and older). This year the league has allowed Trinity to divide into two teams. Lisa Wolf has volunteered to coach the second team. All the players have returned from last year and additional players are needed to fill the roster of the second team. All those interested in playing should call Bart Cashman (609-2270, cash8686@gmail.com), Dave Adams (943-8997, daddams@pbi.org), or Lisa Wolf (572-0267, lee5472w@hotmail.com). The registration fee is \$25 per player. An organizational meeting will be held in March, but call now if you are interested. The team has had a lot of fun over the last two years, including an end of season team picnic.

Lenten Self-Denial Box

Members of Trinity are encouraged to journey the Forty Days of Lent by using a Lenten Self-Denial-Box to remember those in need. The Missions and Social Ministry Committees will share your monetary gift by recognizing global and local community organizations.

This Lenten Season, the Missions Committee has chosen to give to "On Eagle's Wings", an ecumenical Christian ministry that proclaims Jesus Christ and serves the Church and individuals in remote and isolated areas of northern Canada. The Social Ministry Committee will honor Bethesda Mission with half of the money received. For 94 years Bethesda Mission has helped poor and homeless people regain productive lives by offering food, shelter, and life-changing programs. Trinity has financially supported the Men's Shelter in Harrisburg for many years, while eight members currently serve as mentors. Last year Bethesda served over 76,000 meals and provided more than 9,300 bags of groceries.

Ash Wednesday February 25, 2009

Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes will be offered at 7:00 a.m. (spoken service in the nave), 6:30 p.m. (contemporary service in Fellowship Hall), and 7:30 p.m. (traditional service in the nave).

Christmas Party for Homeless Children

We would especially like to thank the women who hand knit all the beautiful hats, gloves and scarves for the registered homeless children in the Harrisburg School District and all those who donated items for the annual Christmas party for the children.

The party, sponsored by Electronic Data Systems for 57 most needy children of over 400 registered homeless was held at the Harrisburg Civic Club on Front Street on December 15. EDS has sponsored this annual Christmas party since 1990 and Women of Trinity has been involved since last year. The employees buy gifts for each child and they are wrapped and distributed by Santa. As each child arrives, they register by age and gender and receive gifts according to that registry. EDS coordinates the affair with the directors of the Harrisburg School District Students homeless Program. The children selected for the party are those who have no permanent residence. They range in age from five to 12.

A pizza luncheon was served which included apples, oranges, clementines, a large variety of decorated cookies and fruit punch. Bags of candy were distributed as the party ended.

There were tables of crafts, various books to select and tattoos for those who so desired. A juggling clown entertained and made balloon animals for each child. Large red Christmas stockings were labeled with each child's name.

A Trinity member donated 57 lovely large animals, each child selected one and they were stuffed for dressing in various outfits. This was the hit of the party and the children really loved this activity. It was a very generous donation.

Women of Trinity donated 86 gloves, 96 hats, 31 scarves and 34 sets of gloves, hats, scarves that totaled over 247 donated items. Excess items were given to the Ben Franklin School for their party on December 18 attended by 400 homeless.

Donations surpassed those of previous years. This is such a worthwhile endeavor when you see the faces of the children being treated by those who care enough to make their lives just a little bit better at Christmas. Our sincere thanks again for everyone who donated to this highly successful party. EDS will host the party again next year.

The children were very well behaved and polite. It was truly an enlightening and heartwarming experience.

Women of Trinity

Fulfillment

The sun, the moon, the ocean's roar;
All of these I'm thankful for.

The wind, the rain, the flowers too;
The earth below the sky so blue.

I give my thanks to the one above
Who fills my heart to the brim, with love.

All that I have, and all that I be;
Have come, unfaltering from Thee.

Kathryn L. Wolf

Parish Ministry

Health Tip:

Research has shown again that having a piece of dark chocolate every day may be good for your heart. It appears that a natural chemical in the chocolate may decrease bad cholesterol and elevate good cholesterol. Years ago, the Harvard Alumni Study showed that a daily piece of candy promoted longevity. **Good Advice:** One piece is great. Two might be too much for your waistline.

Vote for Your Favorite FaithX Songs and Help Celebrate 10 Years

Please vote for your favorite FaithX songs and help us celebrate the 10th anniversary of Trinity's Expressions of Faith concert. The top songs will be featured at the concert on May 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Helping to perform your favorite songs will be FaithX alumnae and Trinity's children's choirs.

Voting is easy! Just fill out a ballot and place it in the collection box at the Information Desk. Or vote online at www.trinitycamphill.org.

Mark your calendars and join us on May 3 to remember the best of ten years - and to find out which songs got the votes!

10 Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage

Are you looking for a little pizzazz in your marriage? When was the last time you talked to your spouse for thirty uninterrupted minutes? Would you like to have more fun with your spouse? Is dating something you only did before you were married?

Having a healthy, growing marriage relationship requires friendship, fun and romance. And there's no better way to encourage all of these things than having dates! A great date is more than going to see a movie and tuning out the world for a while. Great dates involve communicating with one another, reviving the spark that initially ignited your fire, and developing mutual interests and goals that are not focused on your careers or your family.

Beginning **Sunday, March 1 at 9:30 a.m.**, a course of study entitled *10 Great Dates* will be offered in the church library. Couples will evaluate the course after five weeks and select a schedule for the remaining five great dates. All participants are encouraged to read and answer individual questions prior to class. Minimal discussion takes place as a class, however a short video is shown before couples are sent off to experience their own great date before the following Sunday. Sign-up is strongly recommended with a commitment to attend all classes and plan great dates with your spouse. Judy Collins has led this course on three previous occasions and welcomes any questions (737-9921 x239).

Letter to Trinity

Dear Children of Trinity:

Thanks to all of you for the Christmas card and bookmark. I enjoyed your beautiful art work and thoughtful message.

Smile and remember Jesus loves you all.

Joan B. Jarrett

Trinity Prayer Concerns

And He will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

Matthew 25:45.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We love You, we honor your name above all others, and we truly desire to be found pleasing in Thy Sight! When we ask Jesus Christ to live in our hearts, we step out boldly into Thy Light, trusting completely that Thy Word and Thy Holy Spirit will feed us and lead us into righteousness and discipleship!

- Father, we have entered into a season of difficult economic times; the effects of which will be felt by some in our congregation, and by many more outside our walls. As Christians, we are called and sent to seek them out and to serve their needs! We give thanks, O God, for the gifts and blessings that You have so generously bestowed upon us, and ask that You might guide us as we endeavor to share them with others.
- We pray for our members who are sick, hospitalized, shut-in, or otherwise unable to attend our church services. We ask that You might restore them to good health and wholeness, according to Thy Will.
- We pray for all those who serve us: our soldiers in uniform, our doctors, nurses, and emergency personnel, our policemen, and all of our elected officials. We ask a *special prayer* for President Barack Obama and his entire administration. Give them wisdom to lead us into a new age...may we all let our political differences fall by the wayside, as we rally behind them! God Bless America and the Freedom she stands for!
- Holy Father, we pray that You might stir up in us the gift of Your Holy Spirit, as we prepare for the season of Lent. Just as our Savior Jesus Christ prepared for His journey to the cross; help us to spiritually prepare ourselves to honor and accept His wonderful love and sacrifice. Receive our prayers of repentance, Father, and wash us clean...so that we may be found worthy! We praise You, O God! Glory to our Heavenly King! Glory to our God on High!

We pray these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Events for Trinity Seniors

Following are the dates for the Trinity Seniors' Lunch and Programs in Fellowship Hall:

February 17 12 Noon: **Program by Donna Jean Foster**
Singer/Songwriter on Guitar

March 21 12 Noon: **Fun Program by Elaine Karl**
"Learning to laugh for your health and well-being."

April 21 12 Noon: *To be announced.*

Lunches will be prepared by the Trinity kitchen crew – you know how good they are! Flyers for each event will be available in The Gathering Space for reservations; sign up on the tear-off sheet on the bottom of the flyer and take to the office with the amount shown.

The spring overnight retreat at Camp Hebron will be held in early May. Watch the March "Trinity Parish" and "Trinity Today" for details on all events.

Everyone is invited to these events. You don't have to be 'seniors'! We don't ever discuss ages, so bring a friend or two.

Women of Trinity Circle Meetings

Circle Name	Date	Circle Leaders	Circle Time & Place
Esther	Monday, February 2	Joan Gamber & Jean Zimmerman	7:00 pm Library
Ruth	Tuesday, February 3	Ruth Bertovich & Ruth Dietz	9:30 am Room 237
Deborah	Tuesday, February 3	Peggy Bishop, Anne Fry & Betty Wade	9:30 am Library
Elizabeth	Tuesday, February 3	Elizabeth Winters	1:30 pm Library

Weekly Prayer List

February 1-7: Martha and Margaret Inners; Emily Inners; Charles and Joan Inners; Janet and Heidi Imrisek; Robert and Jean Hyssong; Matthew Hutson; Louise Husted; Howard Hursh; Helen Hursh. **February 8-14:** Keith and Virginia Huntzinger; Bruce and Evelyn Huntzinger; Michael Hunter; Joe and Judy Hunter; Lauren Hunt; Lee, Patty, Christine, and Bobby Hummel; Allan and Mary Hull; Alverta Hubbard. **February 15-21:** Betsy and Alison Huang; Lois and Kara Hoy; Andrew Howe; Melvin and Betty Hostetter; Frank, Sheri, and Monica Horner; Robynn, Courtney, and Michael Hope; Kim, Lee Ann, and Grant Hoover; Doris Hookway. **February 22-28:** Gib, Ginney, Chris, and Mike Honeysett; Maxine Hommel; Allen and Kathy Holmes, and Zachary and Rachael Barnes; Lucy Hollis; Cindy and Haley Hollingsworth, and Alex Bishop; Bradford and Benjamin Hollinger; Kermit Holler.

Do You Feel Saved, Called, and Sent?

If you were asked: “What does it mean to you to be saved; what does it mean to you to be called and sent, how would you respond? Do you believe, in your heart, that you can actually feel God calling you and/or sending you on specific missions, tasks, or ministries? Why do some hear God’s callings more clearly than others? Am I a Christian, if I see others in need and fail to act? Is it wrong to put my family’s needs above the needs of other families? If you say to God ‘You gave me this family, these responsibilities; I don’t have time, right now, to disciple to others; but I love You, O God, and someday I will...am I a Christian?’”

We could go on and on, seemingly forever, asking ourselves questions that will NEVER be answered without God’s intervention through His Holy Spirit! It is only when we trust Christ *ENOUGH* to lead us; that these perplexing questions will fade away, and His Purpose and Will for our lives will be revealed! We are foolish; indeed, if we think that we are in control, or that we have the resources and the power to shape events or outcomes.

God can make life purely simple; mankind works incredibly hard to make it complicated. God tells us that all we need to do is love Him, Honor Him, be in relationship with Him, obey His laws, be baptized with Water and the Spirit, love our neighbors more than we love ourselves, and go out into this world and disciple in His Name, being led and fed by the Holy Spirit.....How simple is that? Why is it that we keep on messing it up?

In life, we have two choices that will define us and determine our futures. We can choose to ignore God (either by rejecting Him completely or by professing love for Him, but ignoring His Will for our lives); or, we can invite God into our minds, our hearts, and TRUST Him to lead us into righteousness, discipleship, and eternal life!

I have spent far too much of my life living as a Cultural Christian; that is, I believed that God understood and forgave me for putting Him second, behind my family. I believed that it was OK to place faith upon the shelf and draw from it as needed! I was not in relationship with the Lord; I was not actively living out my faith... I was a wandering soul, and desperately needed to be rescued and saved!

When did I feel called, when did I know that I was being sent? Ten years ago, during an Easter Show, the Holy Spirit came upon me and changed my life FOREVER! I heard a voice in my mind, and it was unmistakable as to who was speaking! The Holy Spirit was telling me that the time for patience was passing, and that I had a choice to make. A moment of quaking fear overcame me! As I watched Christ being crucified on the cross, I looked up into His eyes and understood what the cross meant, and what He was offering me! Hopefully, everybody realizes a moment to choose...that was my moment, that was when I chose to invite Christ into my life, and that was when I knew that God was calling me and sending me!

Do I believe that I was born again? Absolutely, I do! Do I feel His presence everyday? I feel His presence every moment of every day! I have begun to start each day in scripture and prayer, and end each day thanking God for all His blessings, and asking forgiveness for all my sins and shortcomings. I ask the Holy Spirit constantly for advice, direction, and support! Do I feel called and sent...this letter is living proof that I felt called and sent to write it!

In His service,

Tom Hoffert

Sup and Study

Sup and Study will take place on Wednesday evening during Lent between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Our first date to meet is March 4. All ages are invited – members or guests of Trinity. Registration for meals and classes may be done in the Gathering Space or in the church office, where there are registration forms. Our meals are simpler, soups and salads and such, to match the spiritually simpler season. There will be classes after supper. This season we will have classes on the foundations of our Lutheran tradition (called *The Confirmation Class You Never Had*), practical spirituality (*Finding Your Place in Ministry*), and courageous women of the Bible (*The Great Grandmothers and the Great Mother of Jesus*).

There is a small cost for supper. There is no cost for the classes. We might have to cap the classes, though, in order to have the right number of materials in time for the start of the series. So my advice is that you register soon. Sup and Study is five Wednesdays (March 4, 11, 18, 25; and April 1 – no fooling), each Wednesday evening beginning with arriving for supper at 5:30 (in Fellowship Hall) and with classes starting at 6:30, adjourning by 7:30. There is programming for children and childcare for the youngest ones, if youngest ones are registered beforehand. You may attend both suppers and classes or either part alone.

Christopher Couch

Director of Learning Ministries

Finding Your Place in Ministry A Sup ‘n Study Course

Today, more than any other time in history, people have more choices as to how to give their time. They find themselves asking, “Where do I fit in?” “Why am I here?” “What can I do to make a difference in my life and the lives of others?” God created us with gifts to be shared. This course can help you discover how God has uniquely designed you and provides direction in your journey with God and each other.

The self-discovery process will help individuals identify their personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, life passions and experiences. A workbook will be used throughout the five week course. In order to have sufficient books for all participants, pre-registration is advised. Sign-up at the Gathering Space registration desk or contact Judy Collins 737-9921 x239.



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Arts	<i>Mary Haar</i>
Educational Ministry	<i>Jack Bush</i>
Evangelism	<i>Betsy Knarr</i>
Fellowship	<i>Barbara Henderson/ Debbie Wilson</i>
Finance	<i>Daryl Ackerman</i>
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Parish Ministry	<i>Donna Spowls</i>
Property	<i>Bill Foos</i>
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Social Ministry	<i>Roland Freund</i>
Stewardship	<i>Joe Fidler</i>
Worship	<i>Jeff Weaver</i>
Youth Ministry	<i>Tania Springer</i>

Ad Hoc Committee – 2009
Strategic Planning *Bill Foos*

... shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

Acts 20:28

Keep these servants to Christ and others in your prayers.

The Book Discussion Group Invites You!

Join us the third Sunday of every month in Room 232-234 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Books chosen through June 2009 are:

February 15: ***“The Thirteenth Tale”***, by Diane Setterfield
March 15: ***“Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why”***, by Bart D. Ehrman
April 19: ***“Pope Joan”***, by Donna Cross
May 17: ***“The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those-Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl”***, by Timothy Egan
June 21: ***“The Shack”***, by William P. Young

Women of Trinity will be collecting the following items for Health Kits for the winter:

Dark colored hand towels and wash cloths, bath-size bars of soap, adult toothbrushes, combs with wide teeth, metal nail files or clippers with nail file attached and Band-Aids. All items may be brought to the circle meetings now through April or you may place these items in the Health Kit Box located in the collection closet. Thank you for your donations.