

THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S CORNER: HAVE YOU NOTICED?

May 2012

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Corner: "Have You Noticed" • "Pentecost"

Music News

A Note from the Lay Listener

Missions Update

Notes and Updates: Council Meeting

- Special Services • Soles 4 Souls •
- UMCOR Kits • UMW

People Page: Birthdays • Changing Faces in the Office • Thank You • Servants of Worship for May

May Calendar of Events

A Poem by Les Morgan

Have you noticed all the extra people? We are averaging over 40 people more a Sunday this year than we did the previous year. Have you noticed all the children? They seem to be springing up all over. Little ones ... and littler ones. Isn't it wonderful! But ... growing families force questions. Where do we put them all? The 'toddler's' nursery has gotten filled to the brim. The tables on the Wednesday night children's dinners are squashing full.

Quite frankly, we don't know where we are going to put them all. We have been squeezing them in ... but the seams are about to pop! So we need your prayers and we need your imagination. We are exploring how to expand one of the small rooms. We are asking if it is time to separate the preschoolers, toddlers, and early elementary children into groups during the 11 am worship. Do we update the baby nursery into a toddler nursery? Do we start a children's church? Do we have enough volunteers? We don't know. So we are starting to ask questions and play with space and options.

We are also starting to ask questions about our Wednesday night programs. We want to start planning now so that we are prepared. The UMW has faithfully and lovingly been feeding the children this year. By my how the numbers have grown! And it seems that the space has shrunk. With such a growing family we are again asking: how do we fit them all in? How do we feed them all? How do we get more help?

We are asking ourselves these questions. We are trying to plan for the future. We thank God for every little one that has been put into our care. If you have any suggestions, please talk to Diane, Angie, or Teresa.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The Pastor will be out of town on May 15th.

She would like to move the council meeting to the next Tuesday, May 22nd.

Will council members please let the office know if this change will work or not?

Thanks!

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all news, pictures and articles to the office no later than Thursday, May 24th for inclusion in the June Newsletter.

You can send items by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or drop off at the office.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

It's this time of year again. Youth Sunday is May 20th and Children's Sunday is June 6th.

With Teresa being out of town on the 20th and with so many of the 8:30 service participating in the Youth Service, the Worship Leaders have decided to hold a joint worship service. Because it is a joint service, the time will be set for 10 am.

On June 6th, we will hold two worship services. The 8:30 will include Communion and a Sermon. The 11 am service will be the Children's Program and will be followed by the picnic.

We are so blessed to have so many young people and look forward to their leadership in worship.

PENTECOST

It's Coming.....The Holy Spirit.....she is coming. She is coming to fill us with life! She is coming to lift us up and give us breath.

Pentecost is the Jewish festival of the spring harvest. But for Christians, it is our birthday - the birthday of the church.



Acts 2 tell us that people had gathered into Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival. And while some of the faithful were gathered in one room, the rush of a mighty wind swept across the room. With an explosion of sound, people started speaking in foreign languages. They started to be able to talk in the languages of people from many places.

This remains one of the great hopes and anticipations of the church today. We are a people from many walks of life. Our livelihoods have languages. Our hobbies have languages. Even our denominations have languages. Can we talk to all the people from the different walks of life? Can we speak to them with words and in ways that they can understand?

When I was a girl I read a book about a woman who learned sign language. With it, she was able to talk to the deaf girl for which she was responsible. As they "talked" in this new language, they realized that they both had experienced the Eternal One. In this new language, they could talk and the deaf girl's faith was given help in growing in God.

What are the languages that God has given us to share the good news of Jesus Christ? What languages has God given you? Pentecost celebrates the explosion of the Spirit among and within us.

In my time here, I have witnessed the explosion of the Spirit. Haven't you? Let's continue to witness to what we are seeing God do among us. Let's continue to let the Spirit fill us and enable us to share. With all that God has done in the past 10 months, just imagine what excitement awaits us.

"METAMORPHOSIS #2"

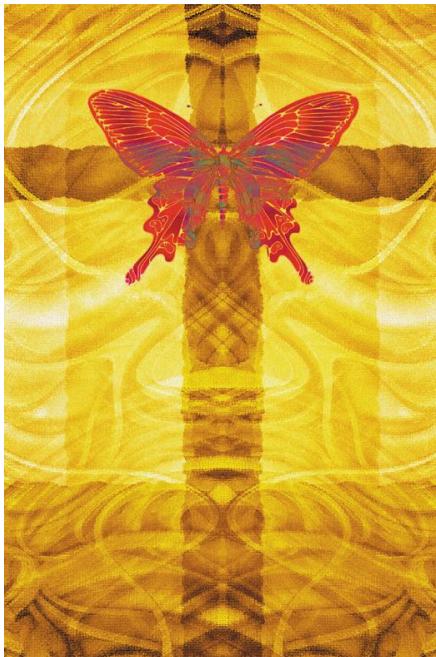
LES MORGAN

Where do the souls
of butterflies go?

Do they
add the glory
of their spirits
to the sound of grass
growing,

or to the song
thistledown sings
as it rides the wind?

Perhaps
they enter the minds
of poets,
or the hearts
of lovers,
and wait there
for the perfect moment
of revelation:
or do they simply
render sacred
the miraculous smile of a
child.



MUSIC NEWS

PAT MADISON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

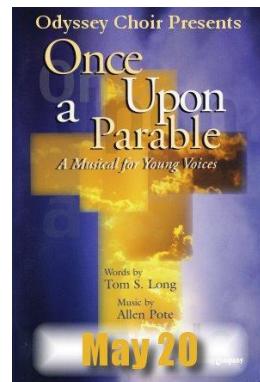
Thanks to the Trinity Chancel Choir and Trinity Belles for providing us with beautiful music on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. A special thanks to **Alyssa Sandlin** for playing the offertory on Palm Sunday. We love to hear you play that beautiful harp! Thanks also to **Norma Stanfield, Bill Poole**, and **Haley Rasmussen** for playing with the Trinity Bell Choir. Thank you for sharing your talent. I am grateful to all who participate in the music programs here at Trinity. Thanks you for volunteering your time and talent.

The Trinity Belles will not ring again until June 10th due to members being gone on vacations and traveling during the month of May. However we will still meet most Monday evenings for rehearsal.

The Cherubs and Angels would like to thank those members of the UMW who have so graciously fixed dinner for us on Wednesday nights. I know this is difficult at times, but please know how much we appreciate what you do for us. Thanks so very much UMW!

Youth Sunday is May 20th. The Youth will be leading the service and the Odyssey choir will be presenting the musical "Once Upon a Parable". We are having fun working on this project and we hope that you will enjoy the service. Please plan to attend and support our youth.

Children's Sunday is June 3rd. Dress rehearsal is 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, June 2nd. Cherubs will be singing, Chimers will be ringing, and our Angels and Treble Clefs will be presenting "Life School Musical". Come and join us as we learn and sing about the "school of life"! Plan to stay after the service for a picnic on the grounds!



As summer approaches, I would like to thank those people who have worked with the youth and children in our music groups. **Lori Poythress** has worked with the Angels and Cherubs. **Kathy Ruxton** has been helping with the Cherubs on Wednesdays and working with the Angels on Sunday afternoons. Janet Collins has been wonderful to help with the crafts for Cherubs. We also thank **Bert Bunyard** for her help with crafts and the bulletin board next to the kitchen. **Deborah Napolitano** has led the Angels in Bible Study which goes along with our play. A special thanks to all the parents and grandparents that help out on Wednesday evenings. These beautiful children are such a joy and blessing to us.

Thanks to **Pat Shrader** who leads the Trinity Chimers. We have had a very successful group this year and we hope to build on this next year! Thanks also to **Ruth Allyn** who leads when Pat is gone. A special thanks to those adults who came to ring bells with the Tintinnabulations. Thank you **Ruth Allyn, Mary Potter, Pat Shrader, Norma Stanfield, Angie Rasmussen, Karen Poole, and Bill Poole**. We would not have been possible without your help!

Thanks to all of you for your support and dedication.

Come join the fun for VBS in the music department. VBS is July 8th-13th

And I need a fun loving crew to learn and teach this year's music. Please let me know if you are available and would like to be a part of the VBS music!

Blessings, Pat

UMCOR KITS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Items are due on **Sunday, May 6** for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kit drive. The UMW would like to invite everyone to participate in this year's kits for conference drive.

Items for the health kit are:

- **1 hand towel** (15x25" to 17x27", no kitchen towels)
- **1 washcloth**
- **1 comb** (large & sturdy, not pocket-size)
- **1 metal nail file** or fingernail clippers
- **1 bar soap** (3 oz and up)
- **1 toothbrush** (single brush only in original wrapper/no child's brushes)
- **6 adhesive sterile bandages** (Band-Aids)
- **NO TOOTHPASTE PLEASE.** UMCOR buys toothpaste with appropriate expiration dates.

Items for the baby/layette kit are:

- **6 cloth diapers**
- **2 shirts or one-piece body suits** (size 3-6months)
- **2 baby washcloths**
- **2 gowns or sleepers** (size 3-6 months)
- **2 diaper pins**
- **1 sweater open in front** (size 3-6 months)
- **2 receiving blankets**

You may want to collect a few of the listed items or complete an entire kit. All items must be new. Any monetary donations will be used to complete the kits or to pay for processing and shipping.

Because of the strict rules in other countries, please do not add items not listed or put more than the listed quantity. Personal notes or cards are also not allowed. Please place items in designated boxes in the hall. The UMW will inventory donations and add any items needed to complete the kits. Thank you for prayerfully considering this project. The full list of UMCOR kits can be found at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies>.

For further information or questions contact bettrysawyerrn@yahoo.com .

NOTES FROM THE LAY LISTENER

DAVID BAILEY, LAY LISTENER

The General Council of The Untied United Methodist Church is going on April 24 – May 4 in Tampa Florida. A number of issues will be coming before the Delegates. I have often thought news from the General Conference is sometimes far away from our minds in Chesterfield, but a few have asked me what is going on. Here are five proposals that have been endorsed by the Council of Bishops to restructure general agencies, to fold the denomination's ecumenical agency into the Council of Bishops, and to establish a full-time council president without the usual responsibilities of overseeing a geographic area. General Conference also will take up a proposal to eliminate job guarantees for ordained elders and once again debate the denomination's position on homosexuality.

The most important item to me is that the United Methodist bishops voted overwhelmingly Nov. 1 to endorse a letter, titled "For the Sake of a New World, We See a New Church: A Call to Action," detailing changes – some requiring action by General Conference, some not.

"We see a new church," the bishops' letter says. "It is a church that is clear about its mission and confident about its future, a church that is always reaching out, inviting, alive, agile and resilient." It asks all United Methodists to "work to do the 'new thing' God intends for our church and discover the path God is making for our future." Even at the world level the Church is seeing the need to tweak its operations. The Council of Bishops' vote came as part of the multiyear **Call to Action process**, which aims to reverse decades of declining membership and financial giving in the United States and to increase congregational vitality. Part of the "Call to Action" was a study of the practices of effective high vitality churches. The study was done by Towers and Watson starting in 2009. Their findings are included in the Steering Team Report. The full report can be seen at: http://www.umc.org/atf/cf/%7Bdb6a45e4-c446-4248-82c8-e131b6424741%7D/CTA_STEERING%20TEAM_%20RPT_1-44.PDF

The findings and recommendations are based on reliable statistical findings based on massive amounts of data from over 32,000 congregations show that high-vitality churches consistently share common factors *that work together* to influence congregational vitality and are characterized by the prevalence of:

Each of these factors needs to be looked out by the various groups and committees at Trinity. High vitality sounds like a good goal. I hope it is one that we strive for in the coming years.

1. **Effective pastoral leadership including inspirational preaching, mentoring laity, and effective management**
2. **Multiple small groups and programs for children and youth**
3. **A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services**
4. **A high percentage of spiritually engaged laity who assume leadership roles**

This one hits home to me. As the Co-Chair of the Lay Leadership Committee it is incumbent on me to pay attention to this endeavor. This is going to be a big change for the Committee. In the past we have met a couple of months before the Charge Conference and selected leaders and committee members. I have talked to the committee members and hope to have some concrete ideas before them soon. With the Pastor being the Co-Chair, I expect this will move soon. Let me know if you have ideas or questions about the Call to Action. I remain in the listening mode.



Trinity will once again support "Soles 4 Souls" in the next few weeks. That means we will be collecting any gently used (or new) shoes that will be given to an organization that distributes them to disaster area victims. Right now they are very busy in the Midwest assisting the tornado victims.

The shoes or boots can be any style, any season -- men, women, or children.

Please tie the shoes together or put a rubber band around them and deposit them in the collection bin that will be in the narthex on 3 Sundays -

May 20, May 27, and June 3

Okay, ladies, this is a perfect time to clean out our shoe closets to make room for the new spring styles!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

BETH WILKES, MISSIONS CHAIRPERSON

Like usual, we have been busy in Missions at Trinity United Methodist Church, and we have added some new things that you can get involved in!

We continue to do Sherbourne Food Bags once a month (that's the food that we collect in the Narthex each month) so we are always looking for donations of non-perishable foods such as canned tuna, chicken, cereal, peanut butter, etc. Please do not donate anything in glass jars because they can break!

Our men still continue to build ramps for Project: Homes every other week. If you are interested in this project, contact Harold Saunders.

The women will go to the girls' cottages at United Methodist Family Services on April 20.

Our church has decided to do the feeding at Daily Planet, or Safe Haven, on a regular basis. Rev. Keezle has signed us up for 3 dates coming up.

They are Sunday, May 6; Monday, June 11; and Sunday, July 15. We prepare a meal and take it to their facilities at the corner of Hull Street and 29 Street. Let me (Beth Wilkes, 796-6441) or Rev. Keezle know if you want to participate! This is a place where you can safely take your children to help and learn all about helping others!

On April 28, our church will be participating in Rebuild Richmond. Harold Saunders and Al Tougas are in charge of this and will have all the supplies we need to work at a home that needs repairs. So far we have 25 adults and the Youth Group signed up. We will be making repairs on a home in need of a lot of work and you can come and work all day or just half a day!

The Fellowship Class is having their yard sale on May 5 with the money going to the Adult Mission Trip for supplies. It will start at 8:00a.m. and church members can bring their donations by the week before. Set up starts at 6:30 a.m. and the Youth will be doing concessions for breakfast and lunch. Come out and donate, buy or eat . . . it will be a fun day!!

Our Adult Mission Trip is August 19-24 at Franklin, WV. We have 17 adults signed up for sure so see Karen Poole ASAP if you are interested!

Trinity will be donating and erecting a swing set for a family that has 2 children with medical problems. Bill Poole will have info soon on this project.

Members will be asked in May to donate gently used shoes or new shoes to Soles 4 Souls. Karen and Bill's car club is doing this and you can donate shoes for all ages, seasons, or sexes. We will start collecting on May 20.

We are losing some of our Missions Committee members because they are moving or going off the committee. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let Beth know. We only meet about every 3 months or as needed and would love to have some fresh new ideas and new faces!

Let us all go out and serve the Lord by serving others!

BIRTHDAYS

Help us update our information; if your birthday is this month and you are not listed, please notify the office so we won't miss you again!

May 1 Susanne Brown

May 2 Jennifer Johnson
Wesley Carl

May 3 Neil Moran

May 5 Amelia Nicholson

May 6 Branden Beck

May 7 Heather Blubaugh
Joan Foster

May 8 Brenda Contreras
Ernestine Corley

May 9 Josh Blubaugh
Ann Pettigrew
Harold Harvey

May 10 Grace Dho
Rachel Hibbard

May 11 John Schneider

May 13 Troy Potvin

May 14 Brandon Hatcher
Kelsey Langelotti

May 17 John Thomas
Tyler Leinberger

May 20 Terry Lefferts

May 21 Brayden Sisson
Cole Leinberger

May 22 Hunter Watson
Marshall Dunn

May 24 Glennice Carney

May 25 Ava Walker
Robert Napolitano III

May 27 Mildred Sellers

May 28 Robert Napolitano
Mike Parrish

May 31 Dean Paxton

CHANGING FACES IN THE OFFICE

Please join the Staff Parish Committee in thanking Carole Kelly for her 8 years of service to Trinity and wish her well as she leaves us to pursue other opportunities. Her wonderful smile and cheerful voice as well as her willingness to help will be missed.

Join us as well in welcoming Katherine Dohl as our new secretary. Katherine is a Journalism / Mass Communication graduate of UNC with extensive experience in computer graphics and graphic design. Katherine is married and has two children. Introduce yourself to Katherine – remember she has a lot of new faces and voices to learn!

THANK YOU

Dear Trinity family,

I want to sincerely thank you for the WaWa gift card. This \$50 will surely go a long way toward a tank of gas with the current crazy gas prices! I want to let all of you know that I have loved every minute of the seven-plus years that have I worked for and with you. My family and I knew we were part of something very special. I will miss seeing and talking with you and wish all of you the best. I sincerely appreciate everything you have done for me and for my family.

Blessings,

Carole Kelley

OFFERING TELLERS

May 6 & 13 Harold Saunders & Pat Shrader

May 20 & 27 Gary Potter & John Morris

NURSERY WORKERS

BABY NURSERY

May 6 Lucy Shields & Carol Sanders

May 13 Carol Sanders & Judy Seely

May 20 Judy Seely & Lucy Shields

May 27 Lucy Shields & Carol Sanders

TODDLER NURSERY

May 6 Angie Rasmussen & Vicki McIntyre

May 13 Stephanye Fuina & Cate Genkinger

May 20 Ashley Cameron & Janet Collins

May 27 Ashley Cameron & Diane Springfield

*If you are interested in helping out in either nursery,
please get in touch with Diane Springfield.*

MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 pm Finance Mtg. 7 pm Praise Team	2 6 am Men's Study 6 pm Cherubs/Angels 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 7 pm Staff Parish Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting	4 YARD SALE ORGANIZATION	5 6:30 am Yard Sale Setup 8 am – noon Yard Sale 8:00 am UMM
6 Reg Sunday Schedule 3 pm Odyssey 4 pm Chimes 5 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Tinns	7 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	8 7 pm Praise Team	9 6 am Men's Study 6 pm Cherubs/Angels 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	10 7 pm UMW 7:30 pm AA Meeting	11 6:30 pm Children's Fellowship (last one until Fall)	12
13 MOTHER'S DAY Reg Sunday Schedule 3 pm Odyssey 4 pm Chimes NO Youth Group 6:30 pm Tinns	14 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	15 7 pm Praise Team	16 6 am Men's Study 6 pm Cherubs/Angels 6:30pm Dist. Scout Mtg. 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	17 7 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm AA Meeting	18	19 Odyssey Rehearsal
20 YOUTH SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School 10 am One Service	21 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	22 7 pm Praise Team 7 pm Council Mtg.	23 6 am Men's Study 6 pm Cherubs/Angels 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	24 7:30 pm AA Meeting JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25	26
27 PENTACOST Reg Sunday Schedule NO Youth Group NO Music	28 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Trinity Belles	29 7 pm Praise Team	30 6 am Men's Study 6 pm Cherubs/Angels 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	31 7:30 pm AA Meeting		

If you have items to add to the calendar, please let the office know by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or phone at 748-2349.