



THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

April 2013

Volume MMXIII Issue IV

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PASTOR'S CORNER: THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

REV. TERESA KEEZEL

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has long been the hallmark of Christianity. In this statement, we state our belief that Jesus of Nazareth was sent from the Almighty God. We proclaim that when people tried to silence him by killing him, God vindicated him and resurrected him.

To be resurrected several important steps have to be crossed. One is that we acknowledge that we are at our end. We have to acknowledge that life is slipping out of our hands and we are powerless to change the outcome.

The other important piece is that while life is slipping out of our hands, we also make sure that we are aligned with God. God does not say that he will bring back anyone who prior to death is unconnected to him. It is Jesus' connection with God that allows God to re-energize him. When we are not connected to God, we offer him no channel by which he can empower us.

I am amazed at the people who want God to save them, but these same people seek out no way to be connected to God in the present. "Save me," they say, but "I do not want to go to church or be connected to the body of Christ." "Save me," but "I do not want to realign my life to dwell in his field." "Save me," but "save me wholly on my own terms."

A lot of churches are dying. Numbers of people and people in programs are dwindling. Yet still these people and programs do not want to change. Instead they want to continue to do the programs the way they have always done it. The Church is an interesting institution. We are here to feed the people who are already here, and we are here to also feed people who are looking. Because the world has kept changing, sometimes what spiritually feeds people is different. So we try to serve cafeteria style.

In this time of spiritual renewal, are there places in your life where you worry about dying? Do you have edges where the life is spent, and you know you need outside help? Easteride is a great time to acknowledge the deaths, and open up in new ways for the life of God

to enter in. Like growing skin or healing tissues, the Holy Spirit looks for how to rejuvenate. Cut out the dying and dead; Prepare for new life; Celebrate God's spirit that moves through you.

To God be the glory,

Teresa

WHEN IS A CONGREGATION FULL?

REV. TERESA KEEZEL

Well, I guess it depends upon how you look at it. Are we, as a congregation, full? After I arrived at my first appointment, I met the previous pastor. We sat and talked about the people and the mindsets of the congregations. "My thimble is full" he said to me. One of the congregations had a church leader who used that saying. "My thimble is full." By this, the leader meant that he had all the ideas and perspectives that he wanted. Churches struggle with this mentality. Many of us do. Our thimbles are full. We have the ways we do things and we do not want to try anything new. We do not want to change any of our patterns. We are quite content. If congregations (or individuals for that matter) stay in this mode for long, that congregation is full.

To think that new people will get active in a congregation and not have input is silly. Anytime something new is added to a mixture, it changes. Congregations and the way they function are the same.

Trinity is at what church growth people call: one of the hardest barriers. Trinity has been here before and your numbers keep falling back from it. Will we again? Are we full and so don't want new ideas that the new people are bringing us? I'll let you decide if you thimble is full.

Another way to discern if the thimble is full is by looking at math formulas. Standard building formula lay out square footage per ages and usage. Here are some

- Worship & fellowship space should have 12 square feet per seat/person.
- When we have 70% of the seating occupied, the space is full.
- Education spaces should be:
 - 35 sq. ft. per preschooler
 - 30 sq. ft. per 1-6th grader
 - 25 sq. ft. per 7-12th grader
 - 20 sq. ft. per adult
- Offices should be 150 sq. ft. per person
- Kitchen space should be 15-20% of the fellowship space.

We are working on future planning. Where are we going. This question is being asked about our vision and about our space. What do you think? How full is your physical space and how full is your thimble?

EASTER THANKS

Thank you. Thank you for being so good about Easter. Every couple of years I teach a confirmation class. The class begins in September and continues to Easter. Ministers often have classes join around Easter because this is traditionally when people join. Some do confirmation Easter, others do it right after Easter, and some wait until Pentecost. When I hold a class, I let the class pick the songs and lead worship. Because all of our confirmants attend the Contemporary service, the songs they know are non-traditional hymns. So worship started with a traditional Wesley hymn and the other two hymns were picked by the class. As I have told you, I left the worship time at 10 am because one of the youth has a parent that needs to get to work. Many of our youth are not where we are. Just as in many ways, we were not where our parents were. Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your openness. Where they are, we may never be. But we are back to the thimble question: are we open to honoring new ways, allowing them space, even when we would not personally choose it. Ya'll have taught me, your grace is boundless. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all news, pictures and articles to the office no later than Sunday, April 21st for inclusion in the May Newsletter.

Early submissions are more than welcome, but later submissions may result in missing the newsletter.

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



FEEDING THE HUNGRY: A SHERBOURNE NOTE

DEBORAH NAPOLITANO

Especially now that the price of groceries continues to rise, the need for food is even greater. The amount of items we are able to place in 60 family's bags is declining.

By designating one food item per month, we are hoping to supplement these bags. For April, I need 60 cans of tuna, but am praying for 120. Your support continues to be a blessing.

Contact Deborah Napolitano with questions.



ARE YOU HANDY WITH COMPUTERS?



If you are skilled with computers and would like to use your skills to help the church, the Music Ministry needs a few hours of your time!

The music laptop – the one Pat uses – is in need of a Spring Cleaning. If you are comfortable doing some basic rehab – disk clean up, optimization, etc – you are greatly needed! Contact the office or Pat directly (piano4mom@gmail.com) to schedule a time to come and check out the computer and see if you can breathe new life into it (and keep Pat from pulling out her hair!)

UMW IN APRIL

BARBARA SMITH, UMW PRESIDENT

The UMW ladies will meet Thursday April 11th at 7:00. Our program this month will be on prison ministries. Come join us for Christian fellowship. Contact Barbara Smith or Diane Springfield with questions.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PAM SOTO

Do you know what a prayer shawl is? Why not attend one of our meetings and check us out! If it is not for you, no problem; I am sure there will be a place for you to serve.

We meet next time on Tuesday April 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at church. We laugh, pray, eat, crochet, and knit. We tie knots in fleece blankets we make for the girls at UMFS - another extension of the ministry.

Or perhaps you know someone who might be pleased to receive a prayer shawl; someone who is ill, grieving, having family trouble or whatever, and might want the tangible comfort of a shawl with the intangible comfort of the prayers behind it.

Please ask Diane Springfield or Pam Soto any questions you may have. If the need is a personal problem or confidential, talk with Teresa and she will see that one is given to the person anonymously.

APRIL MUSIC NOTES

PAT MADISON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Thanks to everyone who participated or supported the annual Trinity Talent Show. Your talents and monetary contributions were amazing and greatly appreciated. We are confident that we will raise the remaining funds needed for Haley to attend Voices of Youth this summer. Please check the bulletin board next to the water fountain for some wonderful photos of the event. Thank you Doug Smith!

Cherubs and parents, don't forget the date, April 21st, for our Spring Tea. We are working hard on our program. Angels and Trebles are rehearsing their musical to be presented on Sunday, June 2nd followed by a church picnic. All of the children's music groups will be participating in the service that day. So come and celebrate our children on June 2nd!

The Angels need to borrow a drum set for the play. If you have one that is in your attic or garage that we could borrow, please let me know by calling the church (748-2439) or sending an e-mail to piano4mom@gmail.com. We would appreciate your help.

MUSIC DATES

April 21

Spring Tea

May 19

Youth Sunday

June 2

Musical (Let's Rock)

KITCHEN NEWS

KAREN SISMOUR, KITCHEN COORDINATOR

The new kitchen is functional and almost complete. Karen Sismour is the new coordinator and will provide supplies of stocked items for church events. To help us run a smooth operation, please help us out with the following items.

- **READ NOTES AND LABELS** We are in the process of rearranging the kitchen, so an item may not be in the same place you used it last fall, or even yesterday. Once we get it set up, the sticky notes will be replaced with typed labels. The plan is to keep the countertops as clear as possible.
- **USE LABELS** Please label any item you put in the refrigerator, cabinet, or closet that is intended for a specific group or event. Any unlabeled items are open to church use. And please use up unlabeled items before purchasing new items. Expired and suspect items will be removed.
- **BE AWARE OF SUPPLIES** Karen will maintain stocks of napkins, plates, cups, utensils, condiments, tea, lemonade mixes, etc. If you notice an item is out or running low or have suggestions for stocked items, please let her know. A list of stocked items will be posted and revised as needed.
- **COORDINATE EVENTS** Please coordinate with Karen on your needs and an estimated attendance.
 - For large events, she will set out the supplies on the kitchen counter the day before while the event leader handles the main food items. Let's use up the smaller roll of tablecloth cover.
 - For routine events, supplies will be in a designated area. Before you open a new package, please look to see if there is a package already opened. (Consumable items are labeled "open" or "new").

More details will be posted in the kitchen as they are developed and revised. If you have any suggestions, please contact Karen at kjsismour@verizon.net or call/text 804-363-4339.

Special thanks to Jack Ball for providing supplies at a low cost and to Ann Wright for suggesting paper products over styrofoam for the environment.

RECYCLE BIN AVAILABLE

A red recycle bin has been placed in the Sojourner's classroom, and a small bin in the church office.

Before you throw away paper, posters, or other recyclables, please consider tossing it in the recycling bin, instead.



MISSIONS COUNCIL REPORT: MARCH 19, 2013

BETH WILKES, MISSIONS CHAIR

REBUILD RICHMOND

Date is April 27 and we will be working on 2 homes doing ceilings, windows, drywall and other small projects. The church donated \$1200, up from \$1000 in 2012 and Harold will let us know how many volunteers will be needed.

ANGELS MISSION PROJECT

The Angels are excited to be doing HOMEFRONT HUGS where they will adopt a soldier for 6 months and will send them a package every month.

FIREHOUSE FEEDINGS

The have been scheduled for March 21 (A shift), April 24 (B shift) and March 23 (C shift). Deborah signed up for the March 23 feeding. These dates are for the station at Kohls in Chester and Station 17 will give us dates at a later time.

AURORA NC MISSION TRIP

Beth went on a Mission trip to Aurora NC where they were doing a total rebuild from Hurricane Irene. Trinity donated \$100 to cover the supplies used and they were very appreciative.

SHERBOURNE

We might have to cut back to 48 bags of food per month because the \$700 per month is not covering everything needed.

PROJECT HOMES

The ramp crew will start training Capital One volunteers to build ramps at the end of March. Capital One donated \$150,000 to help with the ramps.

UMFS

A dedicated group of women continue to go every other month and do a craft and provide a snack with the girls cottages.

SAFE HAVEN

The dates for the feedings are March 11, April 14 (Youth will do), May 12, and June 10.

KAIROS

Maury will be going the end of April and the cookies are due by April 21. Those attending need to have their forms in by March 26.

SHAWL MINISTRY

The ladies continue to meet on a regular basis and donate the shawls and fleece blankets as needed.

KAIROS COOKIE MINISTRY: INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS AND RECIPES

MAUREY BECK

INFORMATION

Hello again Trinity Church Family. It is that time of year again; Kairos at Greenville Correctional Center is almost upon us.

The team will need about 5000 cookies for Food Agape for the weekend. If you feel so inclined to have your Sunday School class or any other community group bake cookies, please feel free to do so. We welcome them!

It is very important that you go by the Kairos Cookie Recipe (see below). And while you are baking and packaging, please pray over these cookies that God will use them to change lives for Christ. Kids can get involved, too; place mats or posters that they draw are welcomed.

I need the COOKIES, POSTERS, and PLACEMATS by **Sunday, April 21.** You can leave them in the kitchen when you come to church that day. If anyone is interested in coming to the Closing Ceremonies for the Kairos Weekend on April 28, please let me (Maury) know at 804/393.1504 **ASAP** It is a very powerful experience.

As always God Bless You for working in his Kingdom.

INSTRUCTIONS

It is very important not to use icing, sugar, or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookies, or to add any kind of fruit to the cookies.

- Cookies should be approximately 2 to 2 1/2 inches in size.
- Package cookies 12 to a quart size ziplock bag.
- Please indicate the type of cookie on each bag.
- **DO NOT package HOT cookies.** Let them cool. They may be made weeks ahead of time and frozen - they still turn out perfect.

Easy Cookies

2 packages white or yellow cake mix*	1 cup cooking oil
4 teaspoons water	4 eggs
2 cups (12 oz pkg) flavored chips*	2 cups rolled oats

Preheat 350 degrees. Blend cake mix, water, oil, and eggs. Stir in chips and oatmeal. Place cookie dough in refrigerator about one hour. Drop by heaping teaspoons (to make 2" cookies) onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 8 minutes (top will look pale). Cool on sheet 1 minute and remove to wire rack. **You can use any flavored chips (chocolate, peanut butter, swirled, toffee, etc.) but nothing like M&Ms, Reese's Pieces, etc. You can also use chocolate cake mix or strawberry and lemon cake mixes.

Peanut Butter

3/4 cup Creamy Peanut Butter	1 egg
1/2 cup Crisco Shortening	1-3/4 cup all purpose flour
1-1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar	3/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons milk	3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla	

Combine peanut butter, shortening, sugar, milk and vanilla in a large bowl and mix at medium speed until well blended. Add egg and mix well. In a separate bowl combine flour, salt and baking soda, mix well. Add flour mixture to peanut butter and mix until just blended. Drop by heaping teaspoons onto ungreased cookie sheet and flatten slightly in a crisscross pattern with the tines of a fork. Bake at 375 degrees for 7 to 8 minutes until set. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Chewy Oatmeal

3/4 cup butter flavor Crisco	3 cups quick cooking oats
1-1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar	1 cup all purpose flour
1 egg	1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup milk	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1-1/2 teaspoon vanilla	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Combine Crisco, brown sugar, egg, milk and vanilla in a large bowl. Mix at medium speed until well blended. Combine oats, flour, salt, baking soda and cinnamon in a separate bowl, mix well. Add to Crisco/sugar mixture until just blended. Drop rounded tablespoons of dough onto cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 2-1/2 dozen cookies.

Chocolate Chip

3/4 cup Crisco	1-3/4 cup all purpose flour
1-1/4 cup firmly packed brown	1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons	3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon	1 cup semi-sweet choc chips
1 egg	

Combine shortening, sugar, milk and vanilla in a large bowl, mix until well blended. Add egg and mix well. In a separate bowl combine flour, salt and baking soda, mix well. Add to shortening/sugar mixture until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes for chewy cookies or 11 to 13 minutes for crisp cookies. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Molasses Cookies

3/4 cup margarine or shortening	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup granulated sugar	1 teaspoon ginger
1 egg	2 cups flour
4 tablespoons	2 teaspoons baking soda

In a large bowl, cream margarine or shortening with sugar. Add egg and blend. Add molasses and spices; mix well. Add flour and baking soda and blend. Chill dough 30 minutes or overnight (covered tightly). Shape dough into small balls and place 2-inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on wire racks. Makes 2 1/2 dozen.

Sugar Cookies

1 cup margarine (or butter); (2 sticks) room temp.	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup vegetable oil	4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup powdered sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda
2 eggs	1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Beat together margarine, oil, granulated sugar, powdered sugar, eggs and vanilla. Sift together flour, salt, baking soda and cream of tartar. Add dry ingredients to margarine mixture. Drop from a teaspoon onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees until cookies are light brown around the edges, about 8 to 10 minutes (watch closely; cookies will be dry if they get too brown). Makes approximately 5 dozen.

BIRTHDAYS

April 3	Sherri Diven
April 5	George Kingsley W. H. Lott Rod Scott Bobby Donovan Alyssa Sandlin
April 8	Robin Stariha
April 9	Victoria Beck Patricia Murdock Judy Scott
April 10	Cody Short
April 11	Sherry Farrow
April 12	Dean Rasmussen
April 14	Alan Rouze
April 16	Rachel Sismour
April 19	Chase Watson Diane Springfield
April 20	Ashley Nowlin Nicholas O'Shea
April 21	Joseph Kump
April 24	Brian Leinberger Maury Beck
April 26	Anthony Roach
April 27	Bill Bailey
April 28	Joshua Huff
April 29	James Stariha Terri Watson Kevin Sandlin
April 30	Jack Sismour Jane Costello

YOUTH IN APRIL

SUMMER MISSIONS CHANGE

The mission trip has been changed to Myrtle Beach. The dates are same co-pays are same. We had to move it because our numbers are growing and Topsail didn't have room for all of us – what a great problem to have! The only real change is that the drive is longer by 1.5 hours. Please review the link below, and the "Myrtle Beach Forms" to the right of the page; they have lots of information.

www.teameffort.org/camps/c-6-myrtle-beach-sc.php

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- April 26 Dinner2Go Fundraiser • June 16-22 SC Missions Trip

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

COLLEEN CASSADA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 21 - Spring Tea 2-3pm: The children will host a tea for the older members of the congregation—children's fellowship will partner with the music department to put together a little performance by the children while also incorporating some old favorite hymns (More details to come)

June 23-28 Vacation Bible School!!!! Theme: Everywhere Fun Fair—we will be transforming the church into a World's Fair and end the week with a Fun Fair Finale including fair games, pony rides, bounce house, and much more!!! Mark your calendars!!!

July 20 – Maymont Picnic 10 am-noon (More details to come)

We invite you all!! Come be a kid with us!!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We will have Children's Church on April 7 & 21. Following the Children's Time at the 11 o'clock service, the children will be dismissed to Children's Church.

PUT VBS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!



OFFERING TELLERS

April 7 & 14

Ted Soto & Flo Gray

April 21 & 28

Harold Saunders
& John Morris

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	2 7 pm Praise Team	3	4 7:30 pm AA	5	6
7 <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i> 4 pm Disciple II; Chimes; Odyssey 5 pm Trebles 6 pm SPR Meeting	8 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	9 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm Praise Team	10 6 pm Angels & Cherubs 7:30 pm Choir	11 7 pm UMW 7:30 pm AA	12 6:30 Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	13 10 am Sherbourne
14 <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i> 4 pm Disciple II; Chimes; Odyssey 5 pm Trebles Youth to SafeHavens	15 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	16 7 pm Praise Team	17 6 pm Angels & Cherubs 6:30 pm BSA District Leaders Meeting 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	18 7:30 pm AA	19	20
21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i> 2 pm Spring Tea and Musical 4 pm Chimes/Odyssey 5 pm Trebles	22 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	23 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm Praise Team	24 6 pm Feeding Firemen of Statin 14 6 pm Angels & Cherubs 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	25 7:30 pm AA	26 Youth Dinner2Go Fundraiser	27
28 <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i> 4 pm Disciple II; Chimes; Odyssey 5 pm Trebles	29 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	30 7 pm Praise Team	If you have items to add to the calendar, please let the office know by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or phone at 748-2439			