

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY

Thursday (01/07) 5:00 Community Table.
6:30 Cub Scouts.
Friday (01/08) 6:00 AA—Room 101.
Saturday (01/09) 7:00 Meth. Anonymous.

Thanks

The staff at Trinity Church wishes to thank all our friends who sent cards, brought in delicious cookies, candies and breads. We are happy to be a part of your church family.

8:30 Special Music

Anyone wishing to provide Special music for our 8:30 Worship Service should contact Shirley Krieger (347-0541).

3rd Tuesday Go Out to Lunch Bunch January 19, 2010

The 3rd Tuesday Go Out to Lunch Bunch will be going to the St. James in Avilla on Tuesday, January 19. We are hoping all our friends can join us for this lunch which is very close to home. They will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. that morning.

2010 Offering Envelopes

Your church envelopes for 2010 are available on a table in the Narthex. To help us be better stewards, we ask that you pick up your envelopes either after the worship service on Sunday mornings or anytime during the week when the church office is open. We have ordered fewer envelopes this year so some envelope numbers have been changed.

NEW YEARS YOUTH KICK OFF

Join Jon (Trinity's new Youth Director) this Sunday, January 10th at 4:00 p.m. for our New Years Youth Kick-off. Please be watching your mail for information about this FUNtastic youth event.

Pastor: G. Scott Pattison -- Pastor of Caring & connections: Steve Brittenham
Director of Children & Families: Sonja Richards -- Youth Director: Jon Zinnel -- Church Secretary: Hazel Mapes



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THE TRINITY SPIRE

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OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: Trinity Church is a people exalting God, growing in discipleship, reaching our community while caring and serving as Jesus did.

Volume 36, Issue 01

January 6, 2010

Sundays at Trinity

8:30 WORSHIP
9:30 FELLOWSHIP IN THE
NARTHEX
9:35 SMALL GROUPS
10:30 WORSHIP
4:00 YOUTH KICK-OFF
(Youth Check Your Mail)
4:30 DIVORCECARE
4:30 SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE
6:30 AL-A-NON
7:00 AA MEETING

John Henry Fabre, the great French naturalist, conducted a most unusual experiment with some Processionary Caterpillars. These caterpillars blindly follow the one in front of them (Hence, the name.) Fabre carefully arranged them in a circle around the rim of a flower pot, so that the lead caterpillar actually touched the last one, making a complete circle. In the center of the flower pot he put pine needles, which is food for the Processionary Caterpillar. The caterpillars started *around* this circular flower pot. Around and around they went, hour after hour, day after day, night after night. For seven full days and seven full nights they went around the flower pot. Finally, they dropped dead of starvation and exhaustion. With an abundance of food less than six inches away, they literally starved to death, because they confused activity with accomplishment. Many Christians and churches can make that same mistake.



As we enter into this new year, it seems right to reflect as to how to stay focused on what God is calling us as Christians, and as a church to be and do. It is easy to get off course, even if one has the best intentions and values. George Sweeting said, "*The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.*"

Do we know what business are we in?! I pondered this awhile back, and thought if the church were a factory, what is our purpose, and what is our product. I realized that the purpose is relationship – love God and love others (Matthew 22:36-40 – The Great Commandment). The product is changed lives (Matthew 28:18-20 and Romans 12:1-2).

Proverbs 29:18 reminds us that, "*Where there is no vision the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.*" (KJV), the NLT says, "*When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.*"

This year, let us more fully connect to the architect of the universe as we continue to seek to understand more fully the plan of our existence, and how we can live it out. As we keep in touch with God, we are able to keep the focus of being who God created us to. To keep us from losing our spiritual vision we need to regularly exposing ourselves to God light and truth in daily devotions by reading and memorizing Scripture and participating in "The Lord's Day" Sunday worship has been given to aid us in keeping our eyes focused clearly on the True Light!

In Matthew 28:19-20, we see that the Great Commission emerges from love. Making disciples is the method, baptizing and teaching is the main task of building relationships (with God and others). Remember, when Jesus said this, he was talking to people who were not great, in a time that was full of other religious options.

Going outside the walls, Baptizing (simply letting the wholeness of God encompass us, as our faith is expressed publicly), and teaching to help others understand the implications of this new life, and to give tools to live this new life, are our tasks. The purpose of all that activity: To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. The end aim of the Great Commission is to bring all persons into the possession and power of the Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining God. Simply put, our destiny is fulfilled in the vast light and intimate love of the triune God! *Our lives are changed, by God's love.*

In a Leadership magazine article, Lynn Anderson described what happens when a people lose their vision. A group of pilgrims landed on the shores of America about 350 years ago. With great vision and courage, they had come to settle in the new land. In the first year they established a town. In the second, they elected a town council. In the third, the government proposed building a road 5 miles westward into the wilderness. However, in the fourth year the people tried to impeach the town council because they thought such a road into the forest was a waste of public funds. Somehow, these forward-looking people had lost their vision. Once able to see across oceans, they now could not look 5 miles into the wilderness. Might that not happen to us, as we continue seek to most fully be who God created us to be, as we embrace this new year.

The only way that we can be the person or persons that God has created us to be, is for us to keep first things first. Let us not confuse activity for accomplishment as we enter into this new year. Let us stay on course!

Growing with You! Pastor Scott

In Our Thoughts
& Prayers

Phil Alexander, Gertrude Arnold, Anna Bailey, Eden Banks, Charlotte Bedson, Maxine Berhalter, Jean Bonecutter, Sandra Boulby, Floyd Burnworth, Kitty Burnworth, Virginia Buttermore, Jim Chaffins, Diane Claybaugh, Jan Corbin, Fred Cornett, Del & Mary Cortner's son, Eleanor Davis, Diehl Family, Ben Earley, Marvin Fager, Donni Frain, Beth Friskney, Jason Gienger, Oryan Gipson, Todd Gipson, Sarah Grismore, Mac and Helen Grossman, Doug Haddock, Beth Hager, Wayne Hartigan, David Haskins, Raven Hensley, Brad Huff, Kathy James, Mike Johnson, Phil Johnson, Virginia Kirschner, Todd Kline, The Family of Ben Kreigh, Lois Kruger, Evan Lash, Kara Lilly, Kenneth Marks, Luella McClish, Austin McCormick, Cindy Mercer, Peggy Messer, Marceille Mitchell, Phil Ogden, Annie Pratt, Patricia Faye Pulis, Mary Pyle, Ashley Rhinehart, Evelyn Rice, Martha Ringler, Betty Rinker, Adam Ross, Nanette Russell, The family of Bernard Savoie, Justin Scher, Kim Shatto, Joan Shippy, The Family of Bettie Smith, Karen Steelman, Sean Tarney, Bob Vale, Deena Vale, William Vale, Betty VanWinkle, The Family of Edwin Winstrom, Vi Woujas, Sharon Woods, Cousin, Jerry, with Colon Cancer, Brother who has cancer; Grandson who has brain cancer, Mom who is in hospital with heart problems, Sister who fractured her shoulder, Myself, Son and Daughter, my Mother-in-law with Parkinson's, My Family, Tammy, Father-in-law, Someone going through many changes in their life, Friend going through tough situations, A Job for my Sons and all in need of work, My Mom, Sister—Jean—In Indianapolis who has lost job and is currently unemployed.

News for You

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that our two positions are filled.

Jon Zinnel will be Trinity's new Youth Director. Jon is an East Noble grad, and freshman at Huntington University. Jon's major focus in college is Youth Ministry. He will bring a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and relational skills to our youth program. You'll be hearing more from Jon as 2010 unfolds.

Sonja Richards will be our new Director of Children and Families. She brings her years and relationships here at Trinity, and will be able to focus them in these areas near and dear to her heart, children and families. You'll be hearing more from Sonja as 2010 unfolds.

A Heartfelt Thank-you

The Trustees on behalf of Trinity Church would like to say thank-you to Wendell Fritz and Jim McClure for all of their hard work taking care of our landscaping again this year. Wendell and Jim spent many days here at Trinity mowing, weeding and raking. We so appreciate their willingness to take the time for this important job!

Also a big thank-you goes to Gregg Miller for taking the position of custodian for the last several months. Gregg was not just our custodian, but also stepped up and took care of maintenance work for us many times. Even though Gregg was already working another job, he stayed until we could find a replacement. I know Gregg's wife, Deb, will be happy to see a little more of him at home now.

Women of the Word (W.O.W.)

Are you ready to begin 2010 with another dive into the Word??

We have been blessed with the gift of our new study "Breaking Free – the Journey, the Stories" (along with another study for future use) thanks to the Trinity Foundation's funding.

Put Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. (or Monday afternoon, January 11, 1:00 p.m.) on your calendar. During our first session we will hear from Beth Moore as she introduces the Breaking Free study.

Please "get the word out", invite a friend. See you Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. (or Monday, January 11, 1:00 p.m.) at Trinity Church for our first gathering.

Please " RSVP " to Hazel at the church office, or to Kathy Brittenham so that we can order books. Cost will be \$16.

YOUR CHANCE TO BE A LOSER!

Losers are winners with First Place 4 Health, a Christ-centered health and weight-loss program! First Place 4 Health will help you create balance in the four core areas of your life—emotional, spiritual, mental and physical. The results? Weight loss and total health from the inside out!

First Place 4 Health (ladies weight-loss group) will begin a new 12 week session the week of January 11 on Mondays at 6:30 pm.

Daily Victory, Daily Joy, a new Bible study created for First Place 4 Health, will help you explore the importance of pressing on toward the goal of healthy balance in every area of your life despite the obstacles that may come your way. It will also show you the importance of encouraging your fellow members to press on when they encounter setbacks and challenges along the way. Instead of falling prey to discouragement and doubt, you can experience daily victory and daily joy when you choose to keep Christ first in all things!

Based on proven techniques and 25 years of experience, First Place 4 Health is the most complete Christ-centered healthy living program available.

"Perfection Isn't Easy"

An Epistle from Bishop Mike



The perfect season for the Indianapolis Colts football team ended yesterday when the coach decided to rest his key players rather than to go for a victory and to keep the undefeated season alive. My opinion about that coaching decision probably doesn't matter, but I will quote my mother who said, "I was so mad at the Colts for giving that game away." (I agree with Mom,

by the way.)

The whole episode reminds us that perfection is hard to achieve. John Wesley, who started the Methodist Revival in England which came to America and became the Methodist Church, taught about Christian Perfection. Such perfection, Wesley said, is not about living without error. Rather it is a growth in holiness which involves growing in God's grace until we become the persons God intends us to be. Wesley claimed only to have known one or two persons who seemed to be nearing such Christian Perfection, and so he did not take lightly the difficulty of growing toward perfection. But Wesley, and the Holiness movement, and our United Methodist Church affirm that we are all called to be "going on" to such perfection. Even as we are "going on to perfection" we know that perfection is not easy and it is not really about us – it is about opening our lives to God's transformation.

As we move into 2010 as the new Indiana Conference, I believe it is important that we claim this concept of Christian Perfection. In fact, I have found myself saying that whereas 2009 was, as expected, a "messy year" of transition, I believe that 2010 should be our "go-to year" – as we start going toward achieving the designs for the Indiana Conference. 2009 was certainly a messy year, and in some ways it was a "go-to year" in which we move beyond messiness and at least move toward perfecting our plans and designs.

Perhaps 2010 can be a "go-to year" for you, too. Perhaps 2010 can be a time of moving further along into God's design for your life. While there is nothing magical about the flip of the calendar from one year to the next, there is something transforming and powerful about focusing our lives toward the direction of God's purposes and holiness.

My prayer is that 2010 can be a "go-to year" for all of us, including the Indiana Conference, as we go toward God.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner, Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church

Project 52



The 2010 Project 52 Brochure is included in this Spire. Please look it over and select at least one (or more) projects. A brief description for each project will help you make a decision. Through this support you will be giving a dollar a week or \$52 per year for each project selected.

Please turn one copy of your intentions to the church office. Your copy can be put with your church envelope box for your own record. These donations will be shown on your church financial statement and therefore tax deductible.

Annual Training for Staff Parish Committee

Our Fort Wayne District Superintendent, David Michel has scheduled an annual training event for Staff-Parish Chairperson, Staff-Parish Committee members and Lay Leaders. This training will be on Saturday, January 9th from 9:00 A.M. until Noon at Fort Wayne St. Joseph UMC. This annual training will provide our committee team responsibilities, and some revised procedures for 2010. We encourage all our Staff-Parish Committee members to plan to attend this training.

TOP 10 PREDICTIONS FOR 2010

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

Trinity hires new custodian

Craig Balzer has recently started as our new custodian and is doing a wonderful job. Craig also works for East Noble School Corporation taking care of the new Wayne Center school. He has been a custodian for Wayne Center for 28 years. He lives just outside Avilla, IN. If you see Craig around the church, be sure to give him a great "Trinity" welcome.

